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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

We never anticipated, as our readers know, that the Prussian-Swiss question would result in open war; but we are not sorry that the difficulty produced an English demonstration. If there be any people at home or abroad who fancy that the present re-action in favour of Imperialism has extended (in any strength) to this country, such demonstrations ought to put them right. And it is also a good sign that a war for considerations of "dignity," &c., is not so easy to get

up now-a-days in the heart of Europe. Commerce and common sense, prudence and self-interest, are motives which produce, with a good deal that is ugly, a great deal that is wise. It is now evident that despotic monarchs, if they do not choose to make internal improvement their great object, must confine themselves to being a higher kind of policemen. The age of Conquerors—for the present, at all events—is past. The last epoch of the kind was the revolutionary one, but, luckily, Europe is not fit for such explosions every generation; and, meanwhile, no king stands now, who does not—with more or less success—carry out the schemes for national benefit of his generation. Napoleon may hunt, as if he was Louis Quatorze; but he is obliged to have as sharp an eye on the bread-shops as if he was a baker. Europe gets all its highest inspiration now from sources distinct from its governments—a symptom of the age curious and worth reflecting on.

At one time the Swiss question looked very ugly. The danger was that the French Emperor would countenance the Prussian pretensions from personal motives. But the age is more powerful than any individual; the feeling manifest everywhere—in Germany, in England, in France itself—was too strong. Napoleon's power is not boundless—indeed, it is only the reflection of an inferior kind of popular sentiment, and cannot be employed like that of the old sovereigns, who were strong in the people's instinctive awe and veneration. He saw that the case was too bad, and he joined England in the measures which have produced the present hopeful attitude of the difficulty. It is a pity that it ever arose. It is important that Prussia should be respected in this country; her alliance would be natural and advantageous, and in many respects her example is good; but these freaks of Royal susceptibility are just the kind of things which the English public cannot understand, and is perhaps even too ready to be severe upon.

It would seem that the Russian publicists have

been active lately in pointing out the advantages to France of a Russian alliance. Of course, the primary intention of such appeals is obvious; but is there anything so wonderfully ingenious in all this intrigue? It is very monotonous, to begin with, appealing—generally with obvious intentions—first to the pride of one nation, and then to the jealousy of the other. If, however, it is second-rate in ingenuity, it is worse if tested by a higher standard. What solid gain has Napoleon to hope for from any such Russian connection, as would in-

volve a separation from this country? There are no reasons for love between the Russians and French, if we look at their historical attitudes to each other. As for the imitation of everything French in Russia, it does not go for so much as appears at first sight. The Russians want to cultivate themselves, and they lay hold of all kinds of foreign aids—French hairdressers, English governesses, Scotch engineers, or what not; but we doubt if they read Dumas more than they do Thackeray, whom they translate regularly. And the Greeks

adopt French fashions, and the Yankees, without very mighty political results. The similarity of institutions is quite as superficial as the similarity of manners. The French are still essentially revolutionary; and those who believe in Napoleon, believe in him—as the embodiment of '89. France has none of those local and personal traditions—those feelings for inherited symbols and objects of affection, which belong to Russia. We do not see how any common popular opinion and sympathy could last long, were such artificially produced, though we can easily understand how it would be to the advantage of Russia to have the *prestige* of the friendship of so illustrious and brilliant a nation as the French.

The English and French alliance was not a sudden growth. It was formed into definite shape by the late war, and it succeeded in giving the enemy a castigation which will be remembered long. But a whole generation has seen the two countries at peace and in incessant communication, and the worst causes of war have disappeared. No territory is now anywhere in dispute—no disturbance of the balance of power is attempted by the family on the French throne—and England has virtually accepted the Revolution which it combated for so many years. Unless we fight to please Russia, there seem to be little grounds on which to fight at all; and it would indeed be absurd to see Romans acting as gladiators for the amusement of Dacian spectators!

The Russian diplomats complain of the eternal spread of English commerce: but this is the result of our industry, our enterprise, and our pluck, and, in the main, fairly won. We work harder than any people in the world, and have less fun; so that it is only fair we should have more money. Besides, it is the very essence of commerce to benefit both sides. If we got anybody's cotton without paying for it, that would be an honest objection; but we do not. Every quarter we take of Russian corn, or every cargo of Russian hemp,



PERSIAN CAVALCADE CROSSING THE SHIRAZ MOUNTAINS.

assists some Tartar subject of the Czar to appreciate the value of a shirt and breeches.

The English require at present to be warned against loose expressions of discontent with the French alliance. It is one of the great securities of the peace of the world,—which the Conference, we hope, has at length settled. We trust to see the Principality and Black Sea evacuated early in the spring, and the current of public attention once more directed into its old channels. Our old proviso, that proper military efficiency should be insisted on, is now accepted everywhere, except by those whose hopeless narrowness of mind and sentiment has long since lost them the affection and respect of the country.

Every account that comes from Turkey serves to show the exhausted state of that empire. It is a chaos in which everything is jarring, and about which nothing is clear but the signs of decay. Just at present, we are told, the English diplomacy is in the ascendant; but it is this conflict of diplomatists which embarrasses the Porte in any efforts it makes, or tries to make, for the internal improvement of the country. That the power of the Sultan will decline gradually, we think plain enough now, and that there will be many difficult questions as to the relative positions of the European nations at the Porte,—these, too, frightening away the capital and enterprise which might awaken the rich and beautiful provinces of the East from their long sleep. Meanwhile, do not let us be told, that because of this confusion, therefore the Russian war ought to be repeated of. But for the Russian war, a worse thing would have befallen Turkey; and besides, come of Turkish institutions what may, the Russ ought never to be allowed to plant his hoof on the shores of the Dardanelles. That principle of foreign policy ought henceforth to be the one on which the West should be readiest to fight.

The world does not often talk of a speech of Sir Robert Peel's for more than a week, but such has been the luck of his latest one. The "slang," the "vulgarity," the "want of taste," "want of discretion," &c., of that Baronet, have been topics everywhere. He has done his best to make the name of Peel ridiculous; and to do him justice, he is succeeding. Luckily for the family, the last Baronet was a man whose name it is not easy to degrade. Sir Robert may do his best, but his father will always be a great man—as Voltaire observed, *apropos* of the younger Racine.

A PERSIAN CARAVAN CROSSING THE SHIRAZ MOUNTAINS

THERE is nothing more fatiguing than travelling by caravan through Persia. There are no roads in the sense in which we understand the word; but mere tracks across the mountains and through the valleys that constitute the distinctive features of Persian topography. The land of Cyrus and Zoroaster, as our readers are no doubt aware, is described by geographers as a high table land, intersected by valleys and ravines, and studded here and there with naked and jagged rocks. M. de Meynard thus describes a journey over the very ground which the group in our engraving are represented as traversing:—"It was," says he, "after leaving the burning plains of Bushire to ascend the plateaux of Shiraz that we encountered the greatest difficulties."

"The province of Fars, the ancient and veritable Persia, is separated from the shore of the Persian Gulf by a high chain of mountains. After having passed through several narrow valleys and crossed some high mountains, up the sides of which we climbed with some difficulty, we found ourselves in front of an immense rock, the peak of which was lost in the clouds. Such is the high road from Isfahan to the sea-coast—a road that has been formed by caravans. It requires all the strength and goodwill of the poor mules—all the courage and patience of their riders—to enable them to meet and overcome the dangers to be encountered in this labyrinth of slippery rocks, the paths on the edges of which sometimes overhang the most fearful abysses. The *Koteli Dokhter* (Mountain of the Young Damsel) is the name which tradition has given to this pass, which was formerly more easy of access. A few traces of a paved road here and there, fragments of steps winding round the mountain, and the ruined walls of a temple dedicated to fire, attest that at some distant period important works had been executed in these mountain passes. Unfortunately, in Persia, no new public works are constructed, and none are repaired. Each winter new calamities arise, which in vain show the necessity of more secure roadways being formed for the safety of those who are compelled to risk their lives in these dangerous, dark, and gloomy gorges."

"It was really a romantic sight to see the horsemen of the escort winding round the mountains on their prancing steeds. They consisted chiefly of men belonging to the *Bakhtiari Mamaceni* tribes, who come from the west of Faristan, the boundary of the ancient Susiana. These men bear the stamp of their remote origin—they are tall, well proportioned, strong, and active, with high foreheads, straight noses, and dark and expressive eyes. Their thin hair, which is black and which they wear long, hangs in graceful curls over each shoulder. Their dress consists of a drab felt hat, a loose tunic tied in at the waist, a pair of gaiters, and generally a long cloak. They are, in most cases, armed with a pair of large pistols, which they carry in a belt of morocco leather, from which is suspended an enormous dagger. It is in the number and richness of their arms that they pride themselves."

"There is nothing more singular, by the-by, than their mode of conducting a tournament. They urge their horses to the utmost speed, rush at one another in the greatest confusion, and then throw their lances. These they will pick up from the ground, without dismounting and without in the least checking the speed of their chargers."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

FEROUK KHAN, the Persian Ambassador, has arrived in Paris. His suite is composed of 100 followers, among whom are some of the nobility of Teheran, who solicited as a great favour to be permitted to accompany him.

The French episcopal bench has just lost another of its members. Mgr. d'Armales, Archbishop of Aix, in Provence, expired on the 9th, at the archiepiscopal palace, shortly after having received extreme unction.

The Count de Chambord recently addressed a letter to M. Pageot, formerly French minister at Washington, in which he expresses his deep regret at the death of the Count de Salvandy. The letter is really remarkable, however, for this fact: that in it the writer speaks of the "fusion" as a *fait accompli*.

SPAIN.

NOTWITHSTANDING the constant efforts to put a good face on the condition of things, it is evident that Spain is in a very troubled state. The collection of arms in the provinces still continues. Valencia is under martial law. General Prim has been arrested, and sent to Toledo.

PRUSSIA AND SWITZERLAND.

THE Neuchâtel question is settled. On the intervention of France, backed by the English Cabinet, Switzerland undertakes for her part to release the Royalist prisoners, who are to quit the country until a conclusive arrangement is made; while Prussia, on the other hand, will recognise the "entire independence" of Neuchâtel, and put an end to all military demonstrations. Thus this difficulty, once so threatening, resolves itself entirely to the satisfaction of those who desire peace, and at the same time are anxious that the honour and independence of the only really free state in continental Europe should be upheld.

A bill relative to the treatment of slaves on the Prussian territory has just been submitted to the Chambers, and by it every slave that touches Prussian soil is to be considered free.

RUSSIA.

THE Russian Government is determined, it is said, to insist in pressing terms on the evacuation of Greece. The fear that the English fleet, after having evacuated the Black Sea, will stop in the waters of Greece, and continue to exercise its influence in another form, appears to have greatly contributed to this resolution.

At Cronstadt, the vessels were still frozen in on the 3rd inst., but great activity prevailed in the dockyards. The engine manufactory was occupied day and night, and all possible resources were employed in transforming sailing vessels into screws. Young men are being instructed to fill the place of officers in the corps of engineers and stokers formed for the steam fleet.

The garrison of Novo Archangel, the capital of the Russian possessions in North America, has just been reinforced, on account of an invasion made last year by the Kaloschia. This savage tribe, which inhabit the neighbourhood, surprised the garrison, scaled the ramparts, and could not be expelled from the church in which they had taken refuge until after a very sanguinary combat.

The troops of the late Polish levy but one have received orders to leave immediately for the Caucasus. It is believed they are to reinforce the corps of observation of 40,000 men, which it is asserted is assembled on the extreme frontier of Persia.

ITALY.

BARON BENTIVENGA, the leader of the late Sicilian revolt, was shot near Palermo on the 20th of December. He died with great courage, and requested permission to be shot with his eyes uncovered. This favour was, however, refused him. Previous to dying, he made a will in favour of his mother and brothers, and then partook calmly of a cup of coffee. He declared himself the sole instigator of the late rebellion, and implored the mercy of the King on behalf of the other prisoners.

Those in Naples who are well informed on the subject, say that the Government is still very anxious about the state of Sicily, and that the orders are in force that the steamers and their crews shall be ready at half-an-hour's notice for any service.

Forty more political prisoners have been amnestied by the King of Naples. Twenty-eight of these are to be exiled to the Isle of Ponza, two are to be exiled from the kingdom, and the rest are doomed to "domicilio forzato." Such is the halting character of this last amnesty.

From the Emperor of Austria, also, the Italians are to expect mercy. It is affirmed that on the occasion of the visit of the Emperor of Austria to Milan a certain number of persons condemned for political offences will be pardoned, and that the Italian nobles are to be assimilated in all respects to those of Austria. Meanwhile, however, political arrests still occur in Milan. A member of one of the learned bodies was recently taken prisoner in his own house.

According to a letter from Venice, the Emperor of Austria, who was still at Venice when the Count and Countess de Chambord arrived there, immediately paid them a visit, and had them to dine with him on the following day.

The Piedmontese Chambers were opened on the 7th instant by the King. After strictly reviewing the meritorious service which Sardinia had taken in the late campaigns, his Majesty said,—"Sardinia has acquired the reputation of having acquitted herself with political prudence and with civil courage. For the first time in a European Congress the interests of Italy have been advocated by an Italian Power, and it has been proved beyond evidence that it has become a necessity to improve her condition for the general welfare. My government, confident of your support, seconded by the sentiments of the nation, which incessantly are manifested by grand and spontaneous demonstrations, will adhere firmly to the line of policy which we have entered upon. The severe trials which, with the aid of Providence, we have surmounted, the great works completed in the midst of extraordinary financial difficulties, the part we have played in European politics, have proved the power and the efficacy of the institutions granted to his people by my magnanimous father. Those institutions, rendered still firmer by the intimate union which exists between the Throne and the nation, will assure to our country a prosperous and a glorious future." His Majesty concluded his speech amid the most enthusiastic cheering. Sir James Hudson, the English Minister, and the Ministers of France, Russia, Prussia, and Belgium, and all the members of the diplomatic corps, were present.

On the Pope's birthday, (the 27th ult.), the coercive measures termed *precetto politico* which pressed severely on numerous persons, had been abolished. A person to whom the *precetto politico* was applied could not leave his house before sunrise and was obliged to return before sunset. He was forbidden to hold intercourse with any person subject to the same measure. He could not quit the town in which he resided, or mix in any crowd. The violation of any of its rules was punished by a year's imprisonment.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

REDSCHID PACHA has concluded a loan of twelve millions sterling with Mr. Wilkins, the representative of a body of English capitalists. The loan is negotiated at par, and the interest is fixed at six per cent. Sir or eight millions sterling are to be advanced to the Government, and the remainder will be devoted to the organisation of a bank, the regularisation of the coinage, and the withdrawal of the paper money.

The English squadron, at Constantinople, has received instructions to hold itself in readiness to return to England on the first order to that effect.

AMERICA.

THE dread of a slave insurrection does not seem to have yet died out. By last advices great alarm prevailed at Jackson and Canton, Mississippi, and a large number of negroes had been arrested.

Five hundred recruits sailed from New Orleans, on the 29th ult., to join Walker. Accounts from Costa Rica and Nicaragua confirm our previous intelligence as to the critical position of General Walker.

The President is preparing a special message, asking an appropriation of money to aid in laying down the cable between Newfoundland and Ireland, and giving the company the same encouragement as England.

A treaty providing for the extradition of prisoners has been concluded between the United States and Austria.

CHINA.

ACCOUNTS have been received from China a fortnight later than those by the last mail. From the latter place the news is important. Fighting had recommenced, and the Americans had made common cause with the English. It is added that three Americans had been captured and beheaded, and that their heads had been stuck by the Chinese on the city walls. Business was, of course, wholly suspended, and a report was current that Shanghai had been attacked and taken by the rebels. This, however, is doubted.

We learn by a telegraphic despatch from Trieste, that the Governor-General of India has declined to send troops to Canton, and has referred the application for aid made to him by Admiral Seymour to the consideration of the home government.

The French frigate *Virginie* was at Macao at the date of the last news. The French Admiral was to return to Canton at the end of November, and he had sent orders to the other French ships belonging to the station to join his flag immediately.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

WE have received papers from the Cape of Good Hope to the 11th of November inclusive. The news is highly satisfactory. The intelligence from the frontier is entirely of a pacific character, and the colony throughout was tranquil and improving. As far as we can judge from report and common fame, the danger from the Caffres is over for the present. The Caffres, in spite of the hunger-compelling prophet, were said to be sowing, and the 'Slambies' were making large purchases of corn from the Fingoes.

DEFEAT OF THE RUSSIANS BY THE CIRCASSIANS.

THE news of a great battle near Bayuk, between the Russians and Circassians, is confirmed. The former have retreated, with a loss of nearly 2,000 men and several guns, the attack being made by a corps of 10,000 strong.

THE WAR WITH PERSIA

THE subjoined is published as a correct version of the ultimatum proposed by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Persian Ambassador:—"The present Grand Vizier was to be dismissed, and the new Vizier, with a deputation from the Court, were to conduct Mr. Murray to his residence; Herat was to be immediately evacuated by the Persian troops, and compensation paid to the inhabitants; Persia was to cede a portion of its coast to the Imam of Muscat, and, until that were done, England would occupy Bender-Akbar and Bender-Abassi."

M. Gopevich, of Trieste, has contracted to furnish the English army operating in Persia with all its supplies of grain. The official "Gazette" of Teheran publishes an article accusing Mr. Stevens, our consul, of taking hurried flight from Bender-Bushire on account of his inability to face his creditors.

The Shah has sent an autograph letter to the Czar to request his advice and assistance. The Russians have occupied some islands in the Balkan Gulf, on the Turcoman coast of the Caspian.

Accounts from Teheran of the 27th of November, announce that the Persian troops despatched into the province of Firzah, of which the headquarters are at Firzab-Salzawar, had since occupied the fortresses of Gourian, Lach, and Djouweine. The Shah's army had established itself without difficulty on all these points. There had been only a slight skirmish between the cavalry of Dost Mahomed and the Persians. The latter remained masters of the field. The Afghans appeared discouraged, and a great number of tribes, long opposed to Persia, were every day making their submission.

FUNERAL OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF PARIS.

THE funeral of Monseigneur Sibour was performed on Saturday, in the cathedral church of Notre Dame. A procession, escorted by a squadron of the Gendarmes, a battalion of gendarmes, and one of troops of the line, went from the Archbishop's Palace, through the Rue de Grenelle, the Rue de Bourgogne, the Place du Palais Bourbon, the Quai, the Pont Neuf, the Quai des Orfèvres, and the Rue Notre Dame to the Cathedral. As it went along, the bands played the "Dead March in Saul," while all the bells of the churches kept tolling. The hearse was drawn by six richly-caparisoned horses, and surrounded by a large crucifix, the crossier, and other insignia of the Archbishop's dignity, were carried on cushions by several priests. The clergy of Paris, and the superiors of the monastic institutions and religious orders, all wearing their peculiar robes or costumes, assembled at the cathedral; as did also the Pope's Nuncio, the Bishops of Chartres, Versailles, Orleans, and Meaux, several of the Ministers, the Prefect of the Seine, and the municipal authorities; Marshal Magnan, and a number of officers of the army; deputations of the Senate, of the Legislative Body, of the Council of State, and other public bodies. The façade of the cathedral was hung with black. In the interior, the nave, choir, and altar were decked with black fringed with white, and bearing at intervals escutcheons with the deceased's arms. The Archbishop's throne was besides completely covered with black cloth, on which, in white, was a gigantic crucifix. The catafalque was placed between the nave and choir, almost in the centre of the church—a lofty structure in black and white, with a steeple at the corners, and surrounded by a vast number of wafers. Above it was a handsome canopy of cloth and ermine. The service for the dead was celebrated in the usual manner; the Bishop of Meaux officiated; the service was performed with all the pomp of the church, and was exceedingly impressive. In the course of it salutes of artillery were fired from a vacant piece of ground near the cathedral, and at the elevation of the host a detachment of soldiers in the body of the cathedral presented arms. After the mass, the five ablutions which the Church orders for an archbishop were given in the usual manner; and the bishops and clergy, and the distinguished personages present, then sprinkled the coffin with holy water. The congregation then dispersed, but the coffin was left exposed on the catafalque. At three o'clock the canons re-assembled, and chanted the vespers for the dead. The coffin was afterwards deposited in the vault destined to receive the mortal remains of the Archbishops of Paris, which is situated at the entrance of the choir.

PURIFICATION OF THE CHURCH OF ST. ETIENNE.

The ceremony of the "reconciliation" of the Church of St. Etienne-du-Mont, which, in a Catholic point of view, was "polluted" by the murder of the Archbishop so as to be unfit for public worship until purification, had been performed. Monseigneur Bonnechose, the Bishop of Evreux, presided at the ceremony. The ceremony commenced by blessing the water destined for the purification. The "Miserere" was then chanted, and during the psalm the Bishop of Evreux, followed by M. Surat, the Archdeacon of St. Genevieve; M. Eglicé, Vicar-General; Metropolitan Master of the ceremonies, the Chapter of St. Genevieve, and the clergy of St. Etienne-du-Mont, proceeded to the exterior of the church, where the bishop threw the blessed water upon the walls. Up to this time only the clergy above-mentioned had been admitted to the interior of the church. The crowd of priests and laity, who attended unofficially, waited outside. After the sprinkling of the water the black hangings were taken down, and the doors thrown open. Litanyes were then sung, the Bishop blessed water, salt, ashes, and wine, and sprinkled them in the interior of the church. He then headed a procession to the spot in the nave where the murder was committed. While this was going on, the altars, which, when the doors were opened, had been completely denuded, were decorated with their usual ornaments; and the consecrated wafers, which had been carefully removed from the church, or any holy place appertaining to it, to a building in the neighbourhood, were brought back, and placed in the usual receptacle on the high altar, for the adoration of the faithful.

THE ASSASSIN VERGER.

Verger will be tried on Saturday (to-day). The Procureur-General will conduct the prosecution in person. There is a report that the First President of the Imperial Court, M. Delangle, will be the presiding judge.

It is reported that a letter was found on Verger addressed to the Emperor personally, and which was immediately given to his Majesty. The conclusion is said to be, "The Archbishop is doomed, do you beware!" Verger is also said to have left at his late rectory in the diocese of Meaux a sort of testamentary paper, which has been transmitted to the police by the Bishop. The paper says, "I bequeath my soul to immortality, my body to the guillotine."

A FIGHT FOR AN IDOL.

THE principal idol worshipped by the Konganies of Cochín, and which is held in the highest veneration and inseparably associated with the feelings and sympathies of the people, has been enshrined in their pagoda at Cochín for upwards of three centuries. In 1792, certain acts of tyranny on the part of the despotic sovereign of the day induced a section of the above caste to leave their native country, taking with them the revered idol to Allepey, in the territory of his Highness the Rajah of Travancore. In 1811 the Konganies resolved to return to Cochín with the idol, under the favourable auspices of a new Administration; but the Travancore State, finding that the idol was a very important acquisition, both on the ground of a superstitious feeling and the valuable offerings which it attracted from its numerous votaries, strenuously resisted the right of the Konganies to remove it to their own country. The Konganies thereupon sought the interposition of the British Government, and numerous were the appeals made, through a long series of years, to the Residents of the day, and to the Madras Government, but without success. Those authorities peremptorily declined all interference.

The Travancore State, encouraged by success, carried out a system of gradual encroachment upon the liberties and privileges of the Kongany community of Cochín in the management of the affairs of the idol. The performance of the usual rites and ceremonies, and the administration of the funds, had been previously vested in the hands of managers, elected by the general body of the people of Cochín; but the Travancore Government attempted in 1853 to appoint managers on its own behalf. The idol was at the same time removed from the spot where it had been placed by its owners, and removed to a pagoda belonging to the Travancore State; the coffers were forced, and their contents taken possession of, by the Travancore authorities; and the visits of the community of Cochín to the shrine at Allepey were interdicted.

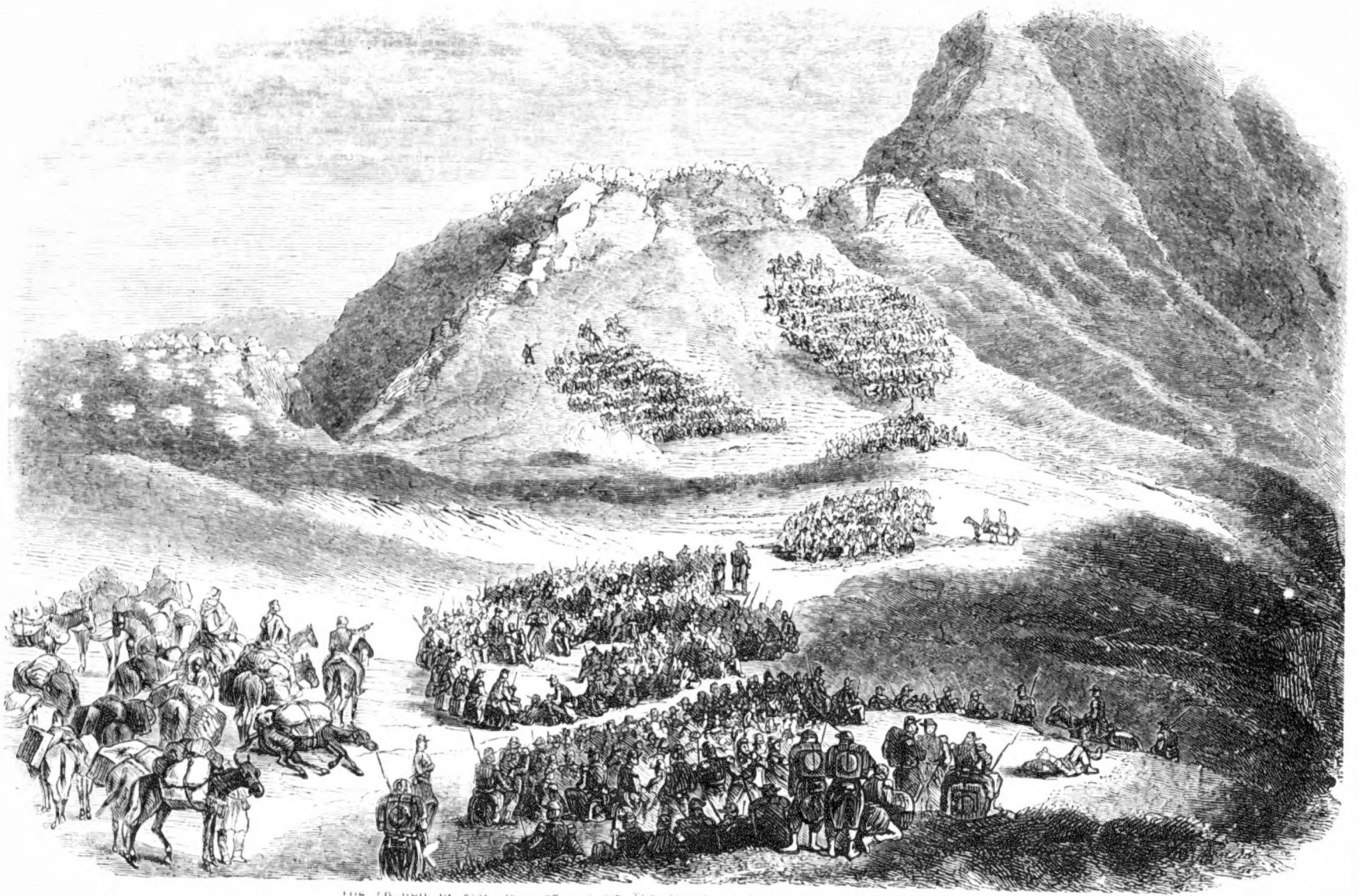
These illegal and arbitrary proceedings alarmed the Konganies, and induced them to bring back the idol to Cochín without the knowledge of the Travancore Government. This act on their part was characterised by the Travancore State as a theft; and an appeal was made to the Madras Government, and finally to the Court of Directors, for the restitution of the idol to Travancore. A despatch was recently sent out to the Madras Government by the Hon. Court in support of the pretensions of the Travancore Rajah, and the Madras Government have directed the immediate restitution of the idol to the said State, under a proviso that the rival claims of the Travancore Rajah and the community of Cochín will receive consideration after such restitution shall have been made.

The Kongany community of Cochín immediately memorialised the Madras Government, praying for a full inquiry into the case, and intimating their willingness to abide by any decision which the Government may arrive at after such investigation. When the image was illegally detained by the Travancore State the British Government peremptorily refused any protection to the Konganies in the recovery of their idol, but the same Government now step in to compel the Konganies to give up the idol to Travancore without any inquiry whatever. A full and impartial investigation is all the Konganies have applied for, but this has been refused them. The original order has been upheld by the Madras Government, and upon the strength of it the Cochín State has sent an armed police force to break into the pagoda of the Konganies at Cochín, and to give up the idol to Travancore.

A serious riot took place a few days before the date of the letter informing us of these particulars (Nov. 15), but, fortunately, without loss of life. The Konganies have sent an appeal, as a last resource, to the Hon. the Court of Directors, praying for an inquiry.

THE PROVINCES

The situation of this plateau was very important. It commanded the surrounding country; and it was desirable that the French troops should establish themselves here as soon as possible. Colonel Collienne therefore determined to attack the Kabyles who had established themselves on the summit, behind rudely-constructed entrenchments, from which they conceived it would be impossible for the French to dislodge them. Two battalions of the Zouaves and the Chasseurs-à-pied were, however, entrained with the assault, and a few well-directed shells were at first thrown among the Kabyles. Orders were then given to charge; and the Zouaves dashing up the mountain, gained the summit without difficulty. The Kabyles appeared paralysed, and scarcely returned the fire of the Zouaves, but at once



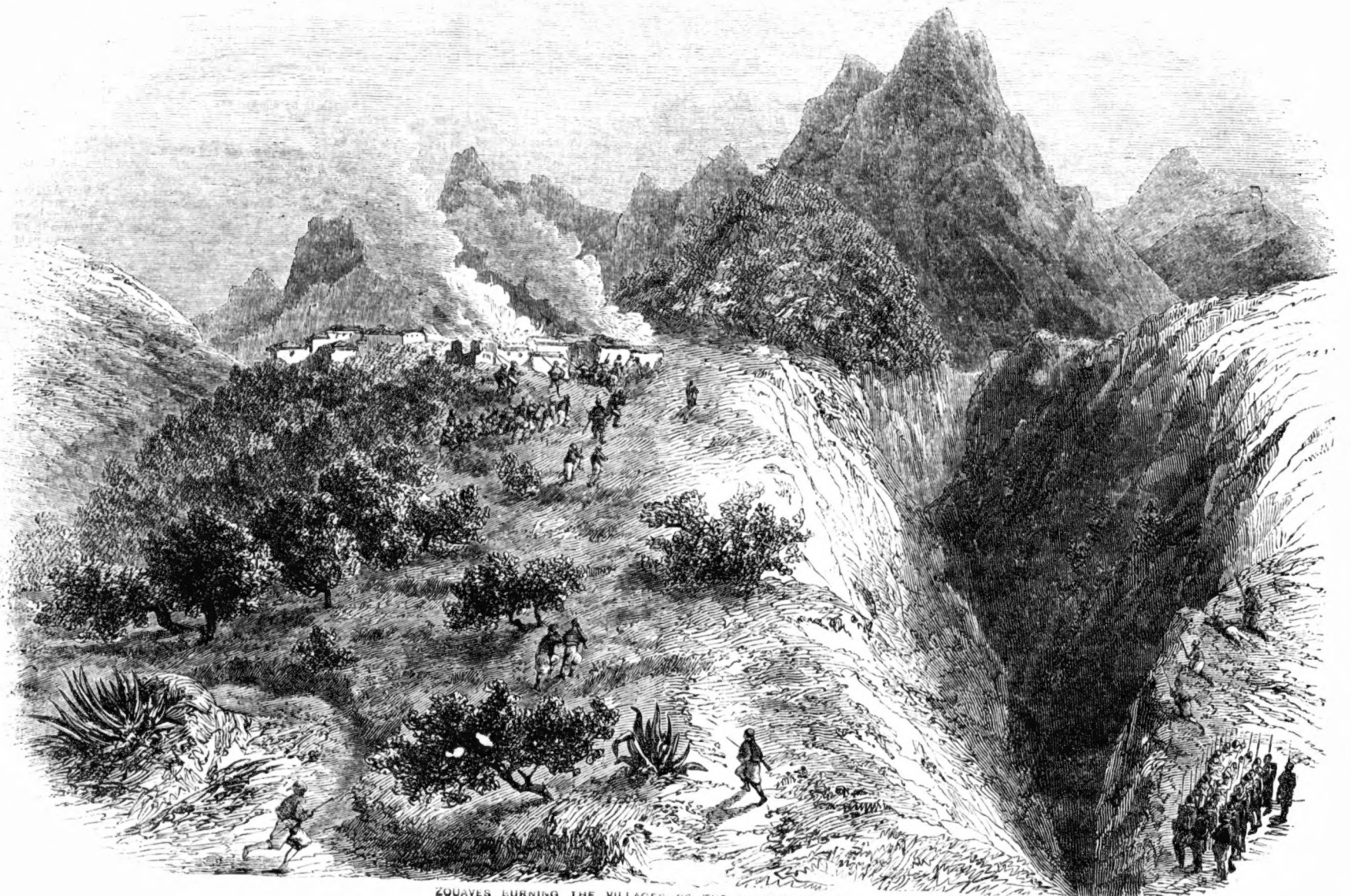
THE FIGHT IN FEBRUARY, 1857, OF THE FORDS OF BARRACLOUGH BY THE ZOULAYES.

retreated under a heavy discharge of musketry from the Chasseurs who had advanced on the left. Such was the impetuosity of the attack, that the loss of the French was merely trifling.

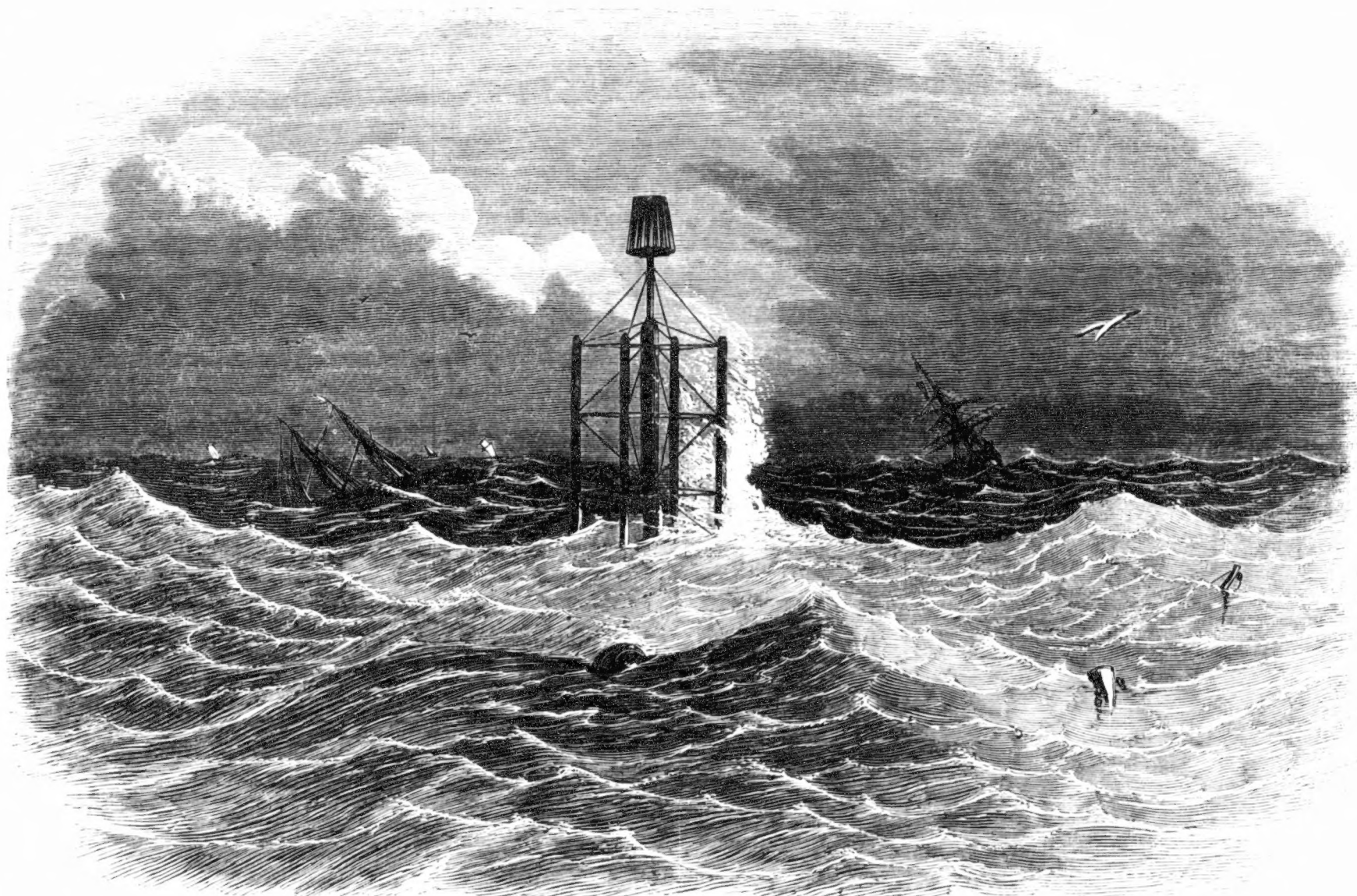
Having gained this advantage, General Jusuf set out on the 20th, with five battalions, to reconnoitre the position of the Beni-Koufi tribe, and to

discover the road leading to the Zaouia. The General, though attacked repeatedly by the enemy, succeeded in driving them back with loss, and on the 24th, the divisions under the command of Generals Renault and Jusuf, attacked the Beni-Koufi tribe. Notwithstanding the difficulties they had to encounter on their march, they were soon masters of the field. The villages

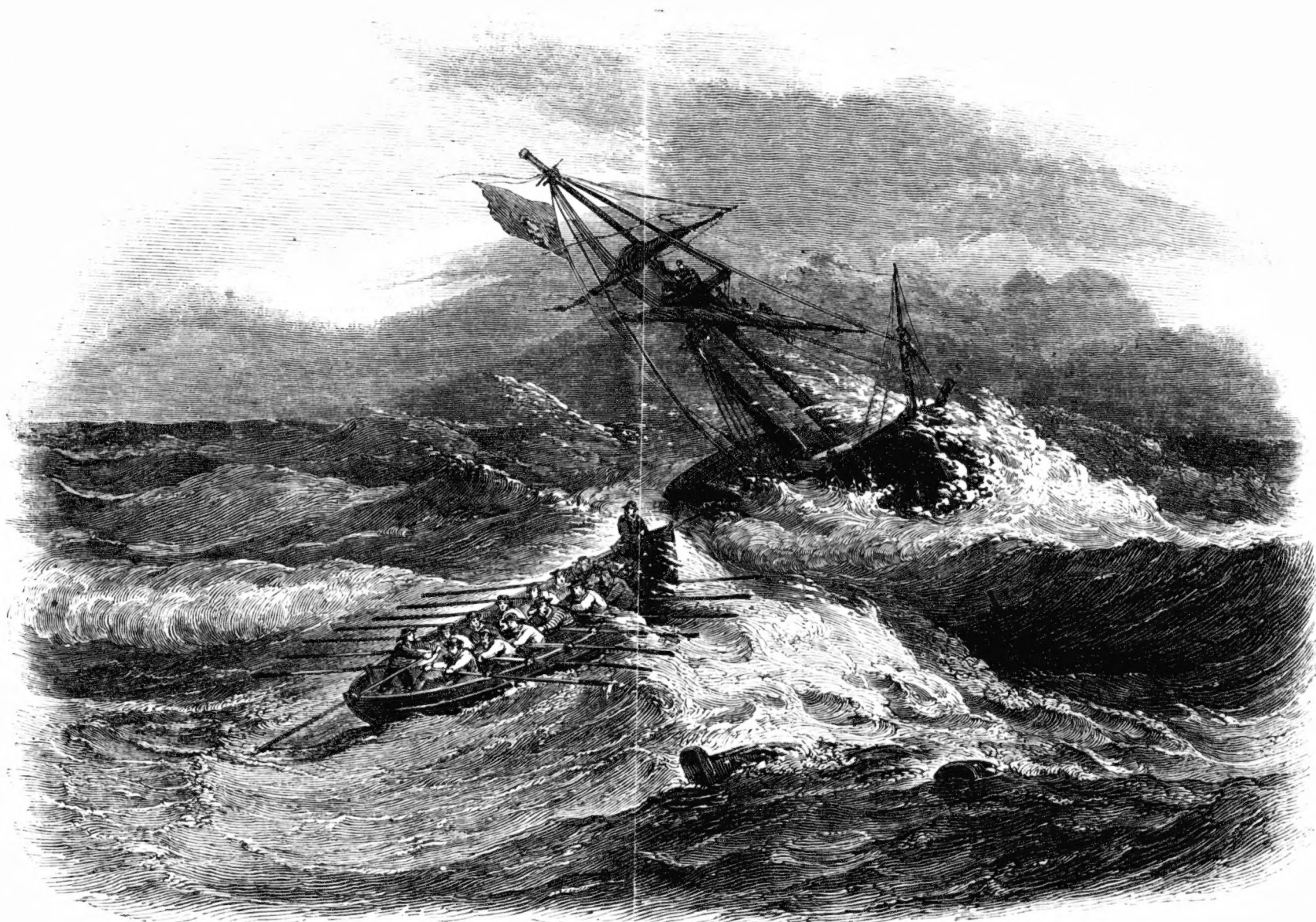
were then taken by storm and reduced to ashes; and the Kabyles were compelled to seek shelter among the rocks in the forest, which grows on the summit and on the sides of the Djurdjura chain of mountains. The loss of the French on this occasion amounted to twelve killed and forty-nine wounded; while that of the enemy was considerable.



ZOULAYES BURNING THE VILLAGES OF THE BENI-KOREFFI TRIBE.



THE GOODWINS: THE TRINITY BEACON FORMERLY ON THE SOUTH CALLIPER.



THE RHYL LIFE-BOAT SAVING THE CREW OF THE BRIGANTINE WRECKED OFF PANSERN, ABERGELE.

WRECK OF THE VIOLET ON THE GOODWIN SANDS.

THE loss of the *Violet* mail-boat, on the Goodwin Sands, proved to be most complete. The mail-bag is the only thing which may be said to have come "alive" out of the wreck, which is nearly buried in the sand. The bag was found in one of two ruined boats, which some boatmen picked up in the Downs; and the inference is, that the mail-guard, M. Mortlemain, endeavoured to escape with it, and perished in the attempt.

The *Violet's* distress upon the Goodwin was first made known at Dover between four and five o'clock on the morning of Tuesday week, by the firing of guns and rockets from the Gull Light-ship, moored on the Sands. On this the Ramsgate life-boat, manned by twelve hands, was got out. The crew left at half-past five, and proceeded to the Gull Light, the wind blowing very hard from E.N.E., with snow, and they hailed the man in charge of the light-ship, who told them the course to take. They then proceeded round the North Sand Head, close to the back of the Goodwin Sands, and discovered the wreck of the *Violet* with her hull under water. The paddle-wheels were visible, but her funnel was gone. Fragments of cabin doors, &c., were floating about, and they found a life-buoy, to which were attached the bodies of three men—stokers on board the ill-fated vessel. A black trunk, with the name "Arthur Majendie, Esq.," painted on the lid, was also recovered, and a small black parcel. Only one passenger was on board—most probably the unfortunate gentleman whose trunk has been picked up. Three others had paid their passage, but observing the dreadful character of the night—for the storm is described to have been very severe at Ostend—they happily declined going the trip, and returned ashore. The crew consisted of seventeen men.

The captain, Lyne, was a skilful navigator, and had made more passages between Dover and Ostend than any other master perhaps. That his vessel should be found directly run in upon the Sands has excited a little surprise. Captain Luke Smithett, reported the most experienced officer in the service, expresses his opinion that, from the position in which the wreck lies on the Goodwin, Captain Lyne, having imagined that he had run his distance, caught a glimpse through the falling snow of the Gull Lights, and mistaking them for those of the South Foreland, actually steamed right down on the Sands. In this case, the beacon which should have warned him of the danger actually lured him into it. Captain Bullock, R.N., late Admiralty Nautical Surveyor, is of a different opinion. He says, "I maintain that by no probability—I might add by no possibility—can the Gull Lights, which are horizontal, be mistaken for those of the South Foreland, which are vertical, the one always appearing higher than the other, from whatever position they may be seen. My supposition is, that the commander of the ill-fated *Violet* miscalculated the distance run, and over-anxious to execute his mission, or fearful of over-shooting his port, turned his vessel's head too soon to the southward, and struck on the Sands in endeavouring to make the land near Dover (his destination) and gain his port in time to deliver the mail." This, we must say, is the general opinion.

The Goodwin Sands are opposite to the coast which extends from the Isle of Thanet to the South Foreland. In spite of their romantically terrible associations and the fact that about fourteen vessels a year are wrecked upon them, are a very useful natural institution, inasmuch as they serve the purpose of a breakwater to the anchorage of the Downs. Without the Goodwin Sands, the Downs would be impassable "when the stormy winds do blow" from the eastern quarters. They are of irregular form, and extend from north to south ten or eleven miles, the greatest breadth being three or four. The sand is really of the same quality as that on the opposite shore, and not possessed of any peculiar quality of voracity, suction, or regurgitation. The Goodwin Sands are not "ship-swallowers," though Heeter Boethius, writing at the close of the fifteenth century, says, "About the end of the reign of King William Rufus there was a sudden and mighty inundation of the sea, by which a great part of Flanders was deserted and lost, and the same storm violently overwhelmed Earl Goodwin's Isle with a light sand, and it became a most dreadful gulf and ship-swallower." This is wrong. Beacons are built upon these sands, and stand for years without sinking an inch; and the *Vanguard*, 90 guns, in service during the last French war, was actually aground there for nineteen tides. Pigs of iron, weighing a fifth of a ton, have been recovered after lying there for twenty years. When ships have, in fact, disappeared on "the Goodwins"—as the sands are called in the "Merchant of Venice"—it has arisen from their being jerked and broken to pieces by the angry surf, after a few minutes of which manipulation by old Neptune, they have rolled over into deep water and gone down. For all this, the Sands are rather deep, and do really shift about a good deal, so that very ponderous matters get submerged occasionally, to re-appear by and by, perhaps, at the caprice of wind and tide.

These are the plain facts of the terrors of "the Goodwins." Their romance is familiar to every schoolboy. One story is, that once upon a time great feast was given by the Earl of Godwin upon the island (precursor to the sands), at which the castle was crowded with guests all given up to the mad mirth of the time in honour of the marriage of the Earl's daughter; and that at dead midnight a furious tempest arose, and when the people looked forth from the opposite coast in the gray morning, nothing was to be seen upon the site of the island castle but the wild waters and the greedy sands, thenceforward called the Goodwins or Goodwinds. Another legend is, that the Earl made an unsuccessful foray into the Weald of Kent; and that, being in danger, he made a solemn vow to the Virgin that if she would deliver him he would build at Tenterden a steeple in her honour. Rescued from his peril, he became so absorbed in getting his steeple set up as to neglect the sea-walls of his island, and the sea, taking advantage of his negligence, during a stormy earthquake destroyed it. Either this is the origin of the story that Tenterden steeple was the cause of Goodwin Sands; or else some inventive person got up the legend to account for an improbable conjunction.

Various attempts have been made to erect beacons and refugees upon the Sands, but the Deal boatmen have hitherto been confirmed, by the results, in their judgment that they would be useless. It is generally in the pitch black nights that ships get upon these horrible shoals, and then the seamen fail to find the refuge, in the chilled and horror-stricken bewilderment of the crisis. Captain Bullock's re-erected beacon consisted simply of an upright post, made of the jib-boom of a frigate, with a round top to hold a dozen people, to which the access was by means of pins driven into the upright; but its repairs were neglected, and at last a Dutch ship ran it down.

Afterwards, the Trinity House Corporation set up a handsome iron beacon on the edge of the "Calliper," which is the name of the southern half of the Sands. This was of very scientific construction. The foundation was a cast iron tube—or, more properly speaking, a hollow column, of the diameter of two feet and a half. The length was eighty-eight feet, which was composed of jointed pieces of ten and twenty feet; the first portion being driven thirty-two feet deep into the sand by an ingenious process patented by Dr. Potts. Round this main shaft were four smaller ones, of fifteen inches diameter each; and the whole, being strongly bolted together, upheld a cage twenty-one feet in circumference, and elevated fifty-six feet above the sand-level. The foundation was sunk by means of atmospheric pressure, adapted by Dr. Potts to the purposes of pile-driving. A common air-pump, being placed upon the upper end of the pile, whose base is, of course, in the sand, produced a vacuum; upon which the sand or shingle rose in the tube to the height of the vacuum—the tube itself sinking into the hole thus created. One length thus sunk, another was fitted to it; and the air-pump being again applied, the vacuum in the top length now sucked up the sand or shingle from the one below; and so on, till the whole thirty-two feet were sunk. It is obvious that this principle may be applied to sinking foundations for almost any work, such as docks, railways, bridges, batteries, and breakwaters. However, the Calliper Beacon went the way of all Goodwin beacons; and its successor, also erected by the Trinity Board, followed in its track. So that these Sands would seem to be irreclaimably perilous—an insoluble ocean problem. If Captain Smithett's explanation of the loss of the *Violet* be the true one, the light-ships—the last resource—have proved worse than useless; indeed, we have somewhere seen it stated that the Lights have several times been mistaken for those of the South Foreland, and that if the *Violet* was thus led astray, she is not the first victim of the same misapprehension.

THE RHYL LIFE-BOAT.

In the present number of the "Illustrated Times," we have covered a great amount of space, with pen and pencil, in chronicling the noble devotion of the crew of the life-boat *Mary White*. We do not forget, however, that this is by no means a rare instance, though it is a very fine one. The British coasts are dotted with life-boat stations; and wherever there is a life-boat, there is always to be found a crew of genuine men, ready to risk their lives and the daily bread of their children to save a fellow-creature, and that in the face of dangers overwhelming, but, as it would seem, for the very immediate hand of Providence. Such deeds are so common, indeed, that little note is made of them in a general way. We ourselves are convicted of having recorded in six lines how a boat's crew of thirteen men were all lost near Liverpool, in an attempt to save the lives of some poor fellows whom they supposed to be beating about on a distant wreck. At the same time, it reflects the highest honour on such men as those who were drowned in that Point-of-Ayr life-boat, that we can afford to trumpet so feebly their courage, their devotion, and their services.

We are glad to say, that a more substantial recognition of those good qualities has been made in the case of the Point-of-Ayr life-boat catastrophe. A very large sum of money has been subscribed for the families of the drowned boatmen—a sum amounting to not less than £1,500, we believe.

The wreck to which the Point-of-Ayr boat put off, had already been visited by the Rhyll boatmen. These brave men, more lucky than their fellows, not only came off with their own lives, but succeeded in saving those of the whole ship's crew—fourteen men in all who had crowded into the rigging, as a last refuge.

WRECK ON THE NEWCOMBE SANDS.—On the 5th inst., the wind being then north-east, in a most severe snow storm, a brig on the Newcombe made signals of distress by a flag in the rigging. The Lowestoft life-boat was immediately launched and went off to the brig (which proved to be the *Tennant*, of Stockton), and having been enabled to anchor to windward of her, dropped down upon her stern, and succeeded in taking on board half her crew, when in a tremendous squall the cable of the life-boat parted, but having taken a strong rope from the brig as a guy, the crew were enabled to hold on till the remainder of the crew were got on board with the exception of the master, who, when striving to get into the boat, was washed overboard, and was with considerable difficulty recovered and hauled into her in a senseless condition, after having more than once disappeared in the sea. The life-boat's crew then immediately ran for the harbour. Nothing could exceed the zeal and hardihood of the life-boat's crew.

GALLANT RESCUE OF A SHIP'S CREW.—The brig *Era*, of Rochester, whilst off Emington, was struck by a heavy sea, which washed one of the crew overboard. The vessel was shortly afterwards driven ashore, between Castle Eden Deane and Horden. A large number of people gathered on the shore, among whom were Mr. Rowland Burdon, and the curate of Castle Eden. The vessel was then between thirty and forty yards from the shore, and the sea was making a complete breach over her. The whole of the crew seemed to be completely benumbed with the exception of the mate, who got out a rope, with a cork fender fastened to the end; but after it had drifted for several yards towards the shore, the cork fender got fast among the stones. Mr. Burdon now offered a reward to any one who would swim through the surf and bring the line on shore, but there was present no swimmer bold enough to accept the offer. Mr. Burdon therefore proposed that a chain of hands be formed for the purpose of reaching the rope, and that the tallest man should go in first. This proposal was at once agreed to, and a stalwart gamekeeper went first, followed by Mr. Burdon and the curate of Castle Eden, each holding fast by each other's hand, and thus a chain of people reaching up the shore was formed. The first man then advanced into the water until he was immersed up to the shoulders, when he caught hold of the rope and the cork fender, and brought it out, and by that means made a communication between the vessel and the shore. The mate then formed a rope sling with a snipnose, and the crew were speedily drawn safe on the beach. The captain was the last man to leave the vessel. He was an elderly man, and seemed much exhausted.

WRECK OF THE BARQUE BOADICEA.—LOSS OF NINE LIVES.—A wreck was seen on the morning of the 5th, on the Totnez rocks, near Guernsey. Her Majesty's revenue cutter *Eagle*, the steam-tug *Watt*, and the cutter *Blonde*, put off to her assistance. Just before the *Watt* reached the wreck, she picked up a man who was holding on to a spar. The *Eagle* and the *Blonde* each got out a boat, which approached the wreck as close as it was possible, and the latter succeeded in rescuing two of the crew, whom she transferred to the *Watt*, while the boat of the *Eagle* saved three and took them on board that vessel. There still, however, remained two men visible on board the wreck, and the crews of two boats made every effort to get at them, but the broken timbers, spars, and rigging, which were being furiously dashed about by the sea, prevented them from reaching the ship. A rope, however, was thrown on to the wreck and was caught by the captain, who passed it under his arms, and from their being, as it was supposed, entangled in the rigging, or from inability to assist themselves, neither of the men could be moved, and the captain, after his first effort, dropped his head on his breast and apparently expired. The fate of the other could not be ascertained, and the three vessels, after continuing their exertions as long as the safety of their crews and the state of the rescued men would permit, returned to Guernsey. The wrecked ship was the barque *Boadicea*, Captain Todd, of North Shields, of 415 tons, from Alexandria for Antwerp, with a cargo of cotton, seed, and nutron. She left Alexandria on the 9th of November, and at noon on Sunday, the 4th of January, was in lat. 49° 25' N., long. 6° 16' E. At midnight a light, which proved to be the *Caskets*, but which was taken for the *Seven Stones*, or the *Scilly Light*, was seen on the starboard bow. She was then kept S. and by W. till three o'clock on the 5th, when the word was given, "Breakers ahead!" on which she hauled on the larboard tack, and ran for about half an hour, when rocks and breakers were again seen ahead. An attempt was made to wear, but the ship would not, and she struck on the rocks at four o'clock. The masts were then cut away, and torches lighted, which continued burning till the ship broke up at daylight. At about ten o'clock, one of the crew, who was sick, was washed away, and five others were in like manner washed away at intervals, the remainder holding on to the wreck till the arrival of the three vessels between twelve and one in the afternoon. Nine of the crew perished. On the inquest it appeared that the wreck had been sighted by the *Diolinda*, which came into the Roads at nine o'clock on the 5th, but did not give any intelligence till eleven the same day; and that the cutter *Secret*, whose people also knew of the wreck, did not go to her assistance at all.

STRANDING OF THE ROYAL MAIL SHIP TYNE.—The Tyne is stranded on one of the most dangerous parts of the Dorsetshire coast. It appears that the vessel sighted Portland Lights at two o'clock on Tuesday morning; and at half-past three, while at full speed, grounded some five miles westward of St. Alban's Head. The concussion was very great; and to add to the alarm of the passengers and men, the weather was very dark and thick. As the tide rose the ship eased and settled down, and every means were resorted to to get her off, but without avail. At daylight, the mails were landed, there being too much sea for the passengers to land. As the boat was leaving the ship, a sea struck the vessel, which set her broadside on and swamped the boat, and the mails were then landed in the Constable boat, which put off to their assistance. About noon, the boats were lowered from the ship's side, and the passengers were slung into them from the deck, the high tide and heavy sea preventing their getting down into the boats in the ordinary way. During this period, one or two of the boats were swamped and some of the passengers were thrown into the water, but they were all saved, and we are happy to find that no lives were lost. The boats reached the shore in safety, and the passengers, on landing, were conveyed to Corfe Castle, where Lord Eldon treated them in the most hospitable manner. The Tyne is lying in a very awkward place; but as she is one of the finest and strongest vessels in the Royal Mail Company's service, the possibility is, that she will be got off without serious damage. An official investigation into the cause of the disaster will no doubt be entered into, both on the part of the company and the Board of Trade.

LOSS OF THE SCHOONER INVOICE.—On the 21st of November last a fine schooner, named the *Invoice*, left Cardiff for Genoa, with a cargo of 130 tons of bar iron, since which time no tidings have been received of her. Several pieces of wreck have recently been washed ashore on the coast of Somerset, and some papers belonging to the *Invoice* have been picked up at Watchet. She had on board a crew of nine hands, all of whom, it is feared, have been lost, as parts of the boats have been found.

EXTRAORDINARY STATEMENT.—A statement of a most extraordinary character has been made in the Underwriters' Room at Liverpool. It was said that a vessel belonging to London, the *Kelpie*, an opium clipper, was lost in 1846, in the China Seas, and all her crew and passengers were supposed to have been drowned. By the overland mail, intelligence has just been received from China, stating that a ring, which was known to have belonged to one of the passengers of the *Kelpie*, having been lately offered for sale in Canton, inquiries were instituted, which led to the discovery of the extraordinary fact that the crew and passengers had not been drowned, but were at the latest accounts living in a state of slavery, in the island of Formosa.

UNLOOKED-FOR COMPLIMENT.—On Friday night week, after addressing a meeting of electors, Lieutenant-General Sir William Codrington proceeded to the Dockyard Station of the North Kent Railway for departure to London. While waiting here, a seaman, named Robert Gardner, advanced to the General, and presented him with a full-dress sword, which he had taken from the house of the Russian Governor at Yalta during the occupation of that town by the British troops. [How was this sword "taken?"]

GREAT MEETING OF UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN.

On Monday, an open-air meeting of the unemployed operatives of the metropolis, was held in the North-west corner of Smithfield for the purpose of concerting measures to relieve their distress. The meeting took place with the sanction of the Lord Mayor, and numbered according to some estimates 10,000 men. A rough platform was erected upon one of the old sheep-pens, and the workmen formed themselves in a circle round the chair, which was filled by Mr. Hugh Pierce, a journeyman carpenter.

The Chairman announced that the meeting had been called for the purpose of confirming a series of resolutions that had been adopted at two similar meetings. He need not tell them that wide distress prevailed throughout the metropolis, since it was computed that at least a fourth of the entire working population had been for some time out of work. These meetings had been got up by working men themselves, with the view of devising the best means for relieving this distress. The meeting, therefore, was purely of a social character. It had nothing whatever to do with politics, and should any of the emissaries of Mr. Bronterre O'Brien, or Mr. Ernest Jones, seek to disturb the harmony of the proceedings by endeavouring to enforce their crochets, he hoped the meeting would support him in resisting the attempt. Those gentlemen might be well-meaning men, but that was not the time nor the place for bringing forward their views. The law of this country was sufficient to enable them to attain the object which they had in view; and any one who ventured to assert the contrary, was a traitor to the cause of the working man. Let them ask what could be granted, like common-sense men, and not waste their time and labour in discussing the Utopias of vain men, or the political crochets of professional agitators. Hitherto England appeared to have been actuated by a false pride. When out of employ, and in distress, they seemed to think it degradation to apply for relief to the Union workhouse, but they should remember that the poor-law was a national institution, and the relief which it gave was their right. They should enforce that right when necessarily required it, and then such a pressure would be brought to bear upon the rate-payers, that the Government would be forced to retrench some of its useless expenditure, and apply the savings to the construction of useful public works. It was neither politic nor dignified for the Government to go parading the wealth and luxury of the country before the eyes of foreign nations, while so many of her workpeople were on the brink of absolute starvation; and he was sure that if the working classes would only unite in the one single purpose of obtaining the objects set forth in resolutions to be presently moved, such a parade as the country had recently witnessed would not be repeated. Before going to war, to support the cause of people, perhaps better off than ourselves, or before sending costly ambassadorial missions to distant, and it had been said barbarous courts, we should look to the wants of home, and then there would be a chance of averting these periodical epochs of distress.

The three following resolutions were then submitted to the consideration of the meeting:—

"That the unemployed workmen here assembled, being fit objects for relief under the Poor Law, should forthwith apply in masses at their various parishes, and demand such casual support, while out of work, as they are by law entitled to; and in the mean time that the executive committee shall draw up a petition in the name and on behalf of the unemployed, praying her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen to call the attention of the Government to the necessity of employing the surplus labour population upon the waste lands of the country, granting them also the loan of a portion of the surplus revenue for draining and tilling the same, to the end that their present impending ruin may be prevented, and corn produced in sufficient abundance to meet the wants of all."

"That the Government open an extensive system of emigration for all those who, being unable to obtain employment, do not wish to be put upon the land, but prefer to leave their native country, and thereby add to the wealth of the colonies, and be enabled to better their own condition at the same time."

"That the Government be requested to take into consideration the propriety of removing all taxes on consumable articles, with a view to bring about a more equitable system of taxation."

These resolutions were unanimously agreed to, and the meeting, which was conducted with great order and propriety, separated.

NEW POST OFFICE REGULATIONS.—British newspapers addressed to Denmark, when not directed to be otherwise forwarded, are sent via Belgium and Prussia, and will, in future, be liable to a British postage of 1d. each, which must be paid in advance or the newspapers cannot be forwarded. A British rate of 1d. each, and a Foreign rate of 1½d. each, must also be paid in advance upon every newspaper for Egypt, the Papal States, or Sardinia, when specially addressed to be forwarded via Belgium.

THE BRITISH BANK.—A new phase in the melancholy history of the British Bank was exhibited in the Bankruptcy Court recently. Proceedings were initiated by the "new shareholders"—those who had taken new shares very recently—to prove the amount they had paid for those shares as debts against the bank, on the ground that they had been induced to take the shares by fraud on the part of the directors, they having issued false reports. If this move succeeds, the new shareholders will prove from £60,000 to £80,000, and will escape liability as regards the business creditors of the bank.—Mr. Humphrey Brown, member for Tewkesbury, was adjudicated a bankrupt on Saturday week, the petitioning creditors being the Royal British Bank; debt, £40,000. On the following Friday, the bankruptcy was annulled on petition, both the debt and the act of bankruptcy being denied, and no proof thereof being forthcoming.

SINGULAR ACCIDENT.—An inquest was held on Saturday, on the body of Henry Lee Williams, aged thirteen years, who had died on Thursday, at the Blue-coat Hospital, from the effects of severe scalds. On the previous day, the deceased was attempting to take a piece of beef, weighing fifteen pounds, out of the copper, when it overbalanced him, and he fell into the boiling water. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

FALL OF A HOUSE.—LOSS OF LIFE.—A house, situate in Dorset Street, Spitalfields, broke down on Friday, the 9th inst. The house was occupied by eight families, numbering in all above twenty persons; but luckily almost all were from home at the time of the accident. Two little children, however, were taken from the ruins in a dreadfully mutilated condition, and one of them died on the way to the hospital. An old man named Cuthbert escaped in a remarkable manner. He was found in the same room above, but almost uninjured. He stated that while sitting in his own room above, and near the fire, the flooring sunk beneath his feet, and he with it.

FIRE AT THE LANCASTER SHELL FACTORY.—At a late hour on Thursday week, flames were discovered issuing from the roof of the Lancaster Shell Factory. Assistance was immediately procured, and, under the direction of Mr. Inspector Chewitt, the fire was at once got under. On an examination taking place, it was found that some workmen had left a quantity of scaffolding and a barrow near the factory chimney, the heat of which had caused them to ignite.

MORE DEFALCATIONS.—A member of the Stock Exchange has absconded, against whom a warrant has been issued for forging a power of attorney for the sale of £550 consols, and it has been ascertained that he has obtained an advance of £2,000, from a person with whom he had dealings, upon forged certificates of 400 shares of the Peel River Company. They are said, however, to have been so imperfectly executed that they ought not to have deceived any one. The seal of the company was wanting, and the name of the pretended holder was fictitious. They were therefore detected immediately on presentation. The company were previously about to call in all their certificates for the purpose of issuing new ones, under the Limited Liability Act; and in consequence of this event they have advertised their intention to take that step immediately.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—The electors of Salford have fixed on Mr. Edward Ryle Langworthy, merchant, who has twice been mayor, to succeed Mr. Brotherton in the representation of the borough. No opposition is anticipated.—Mr. C. Seeley, of Lincoln, and Mr. A. W. Kinglake (the author of "Eöthen"), offer themselves to the electors of Newport, Isle of Wight.—Two candidates are already in the field for the vacancy in the representation of West Kent, caused by the death of Sir Edmund Filmer: Mr. Wykeham Martin, of Leeds Castle, Maidstone; and Sir Walter Riddell.—Captain C. J. B. Hamilton, a nephew of the Baroness Wenman, has announced his intention to contest Aylesbury at the next general election, "on independent principles."—Mr. W. H. Schneider, the owner of large mines near Ulverston, has announced himself as a candidate to supply the vacancy in the representation of Kingston-upon-Hull, occasioned by the elevation of Sir W. H. Watson to the judicial bench.—Mr. Abraham Wing has issued an address to the electors of Aylesbury, offering himself as a candidate at the next general election. Mr. Wing's opinions seem to be Radical.—Mr. J. G. Dodson will stand for East Essex, on the retirement of Mr. Frewen. Mr. Dodson is a Liberal, Mr. Frewen a Conservative.—A vacancy will be caused in the representation of the county of Clare by the retirement of Mr. Cornelius O'Brien, one of the present members. The Attorney-General for Ireland, now member for Ennis, will be invited to stand as a candidate.

POULTRY SHOW AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—The great exhibition of poultry, rabbits, &c., promised by the Crystal Palace Directors, opened on Saturday, and continued to attract a large company of visitors till Wednesday last. The exhibition occupied the south wing of the building, and comprised no fewer than 1,270 separate pens of animals (poultry, pigeons, and rabbits), each pen generally containing three specimens. Nearly 800 prizes were awarded. The classes distinguished by the judges for marked superiority were two of Spanish poultry, the first prizes in which were carried off by Miss M. L. Lake and Master M'Gregor Rake; Dorkings coloured, first prize to Mr. C. H. Wakefield. Game fowl, "black-breasted and other reds," first prize to Mr. H. E. Porter. Game fowl, "blacks and brassy-winged, except grays," first prize to Mr. C. R. Titterton. Game fowl, "duck wings and other grays and blues," first prize to Mr. J. T. Wilson. Gold Polish fowl—first prize to Mr. E. H. Strange. Malay fowl, the finest collection ever exhibited, first prize to Mr. S. Saunders; and white Aylesbury ducks—first prize to Mr. B. Ford. The geese exhibited were very fine, both large and well-shaped, and also the Turkeys; those attracting most attention were of the Cambridge breed. The opening of the poultry show did not interfere with the usual Saturday Concert, in which Madame Raderdorf sang for the last time this season.

JOSEPH BROTHERTON, M.P.

THERE are many members of the House of Commons of greater abilities than Joseph Brotherton possessed—of higher position and larger fortunes—but assuredly none would be more missed than he will be—the man always in the House as soon as, and often before, the Speaker—never absent from prayers—and, of course, always present to “make the House.” The Speaker, therefore, will miss him, and so will the “whips”; and, when the hand of the clock points to 12, and still a long array of business remains on the paper to be cleared off, threatening to prolong the sitting far into morning, many an eye will be turned to the seat at the back of the Treasury bench, and wish that Brotherton were there to protest against “midnight legislation.” But the men who will miss him most will be neither Speaker, Whips, Ministers, nor other Members, but the Parliamentary Agents, for at least three-fourths of the private Bills for many years past were “conducted” through the House by Mr. Brotherton. By the rules of the House, every Bill, public or private, must have written upon the back two names of Members who are pledged to take the charge of the measure; but, in the case of private Bills, these names were merely placed on the Bill as a matter of form. Mr. Brotherton was the man, in most cases, who really took charge of them and saw them safely through the House. This involved a vast amount of labour, but it was very convenient to the Speaker, and exceedingly so to the Agents. To the Speaker it was convenient, because, by long practice, Mr. Brotherton had become acquainted with his business; and to the Agents, because, by this arrangement, they were never at a loss. Instead of having to hunt up for the nominal conductors, they always found their friend Brotherton at his post. True as the clock, he never failed them. All they had to do was just to hand to him their Bills, and instruct him what to do as he passed into the House; and in half an hour or so from thence every night he might be seen standing at the door of the House, with a crowd of Agents clustered around him, to whom he reported in due business-like order what the House had done with the Bills committed to his charge—and all this he did without fee or reward. That this was no light task, will be at once seen when it is remembered that at least 200 private bills annually pass the House. In no part of the kingdom, therefore—not even in Salford—has the death of Mr. Brotherton created a greater sensation than it has in Parliament Street, Great George Street, and all that neighbourhood where Parliamentary Agents “most do congregate.” And many an anxious question has been asked as to who shall succeed to the gratuitous labour of their venerable friend. It will, indeed, be difficult to find a successor, for there are very few Members of the House who are able or will be willing to take upon themselves a task which involves their always being present at four o'clock, and a great deal of labour and anxiety to boot. And this year probably the inconvenience will be very great, as there is an unusual number of private bills. Not less than 250 are already entered, and there will of course be more before Parliament meets. Some have said that Mr. Olivera will take the post; others talk of Mr. Apsley Pellatt. The latter gentleman we take to be the fittest man. He is fond of Parliamentary work, and has been sufficiently long in the House to understand the business, and, from what we know of him, we should say that he would not be unwilling to step into Mr. Brotherton's position.

Mr. Brotherton, on the whole, was a singular man. In the first place, he has been for many years a preacher, of what sect we have not been able to learn. He was, moreover, for nearly fifty years a vegetarian and teetotaler, abstaining rigorously from meat and strong drinks; and it is rather singular that at last he should die of apoplexy, a disease which is generally thought to be caused by free living.

Mr. Brotherton was born on the 22nd of May, 1783, at Wittington, near Chesterfield, in Derbyshire; he was, therefore, approaching seventy-four when he died. His father was an exciseman—afterwards a cotton-spinner at Manchester—and his son went into partnership with him in 1806. Mr. Joseph Brotherton continued in business until 1819, when he retired. He was elected for Salford after the passing of the Reform Bill, which enfranchised that borough. He was, on this occasion, opposed by Mr. Garnett, a Conservative, and again in 1837 and 1841. Since then he has had no opposition; he was therefore the first, and to the present time the only, member for Salford. He was a Liberal in politics, and steadily supported the Whigs. He has left one son and two daughters. His son, Mr. James Brotherton, is Receiver-General for Excise, Stamps, and Taxes.

As a frequenter of the House of Commons, we have often had opportunities of testing the urbanity and kindness of Mr. Brotherton. Some friend to get into the House—some information to obtain, and never found him wanting. In short, we believe that he never was happier than when occasion offered to do somebody a service. Peace to his memory! “We better could have spared a greater man.”

The Corporations of Manchester and Salford have adopted resolutions expressing their deep regret at the loss experienced by the death of Mr. Brotherton; and at a meeting of the magistrates of Manchester, the following resolution was also adopted:—“That the Justices for the City of Manchester fully sympathise with their fellow-citizens in the feeling of regret, so general in this large community, at the death of Mr. Brotherton. He has been one of their body since its first formation; and although his services as a magistrate have for the most part been given as a county justice, yet in any matters of great interest, when his other duties have allowed him, he has been always disposed and ready to give the benefit of his experience and counsel within the city. For all those qualities which have rendered his public services so eminent, in the various capacities in which he has rendered them, his sound judgment, his calm temper, his persevering energy, the unvarying interest he has ever taken in all measures to promote the amelioration or happiness of his fellow-subjects, the justices entertain the most profound respect. At the present moment their feelings partake more of a personal nature;—they deplore the loss of one who has been bound to many of them by the ties of friendship, and whose gentle and kindly disposition has attracted the affection and regard of all who have been brought into intercourse with him.”

OBITUARY.

ROGERS, ADMIRAL.—At Portsmouth, on the 8th inst., died Rear Admiral R. Rogers, third son of the late Sir E. L. Rogers, Bart., M.P. He entered the navy in the spring of 1796 as first-class volunteer on board the Concorde, 36. Captain Hunt, whom he followed in August of the same year into La Virginie, 38. His last appointment was to the Dover troop ship, the command of which he retained from July 30, 1814, until August 6, 1816. During that period, besides visiting the West Indies and the Baltic, he accompanied the expedition against New Orleans, where he served on shore in the breaching batteries and in command of a body of seamen. He attained the rank of captain September 2, 1816, and accepted the retirement October 1, 1846. On 11th June, 1851, he was placed on the list of retired rear-admirals.

FILMER, SIR E., BART.—On the 7th inst., at Sutton Court, near Maidstone, aged 47, died Sir Edmund Filmer, eighth Baronet, of East Sutton, Kent. He was the head representative of an ancient Kentish family, one of whose ancestors had witnessed his mansion-house plundered ten times in the Civil Wars, and suffered imprisonment in Leeds Castle for the Royal cause. Sir Edmund had represented the Western Division of Kent in the Conservative interest since March, 1838, when he succeeded his half-brother, Sir William Geary. He was a Deputy-Lieutenant for Kent; and succeeded, in 1834, to the baronetcy, on the death of his uncle, the Rev. Sir John Filmer, vicar of Abbot's Langley, Herts. He married, in 1831, Helen, second daughter of David Monro, Esq., by whom he had three daughters and two sons, of whom the elder, Edmund, has succeeded to the baronetcy.

MILFORD, LORD.—On the 3rd inst., at Picton Castle, near Haverfordwest, aged 55, died the Right Hon. Richard Bulkeley Phillips, first Lord Milford. His Lordship was the only son of John Grant, Esq., of Nolton, Pembrokeshire, by Mary Phillips, only daughter and heir of James Child, Esq., of Biggely House in the same county. He was born in 1801, and in 1824, assumed by sign manual the name and arms of Phillips, in lieu of Grant, after his maternal cousin, Sir Richard Phillips, Bart., Baron Milford in the Peerage of Ireland, whose estates he inherited by bequest. He was Lord-Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum for Haverfordwest, and a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for Pembrokeshire, and represented Haverfordwest from 1826 to 1832, and from 1837 to 1847.

CAVELLI, SIGNORE.—On the 5th inst., in Upper Norton Street, Portland Place, died Signor Cavelli. He came to England in 1817, and soon gained a name by teaching singing. He was principal professor of singing at the Royal Academy of Music since its foundation in 1823, and almost all the great singers of the present day have been among his pupils. He was the author of “L'Arte del Canto,” the best work extant on the subject.

Literature.

Myths, traced to their Primary Source through Language. By MORGAN KAVANAGH. 2 Vols. T. C. Newby, 1856.

HERE is one of the most anomalous books we have seen for many a day, and one which will prove attractive to only a very limited circle of readers. Most of us join with Cowper in sighing the labours of

“Learn'd philologists, who chase
A panting syllable through time and space;
Hunt it abroad, at home, and in the dark,
To Gaul, to Greece, and into Noah's Ark.”

And that is, literally, what Mr. Kavanagh does in these volumes. However, he is not, we fancy, a “learned philologist;” and one barrier to his acceptance with “learned” readers, will perhaps be the fact that he theorises largely on the strength of polyglot information, great part of which seems to have been gained at second-hand. We suspect, for instance, that his knowledge of Italian and Spanish, or at least the latter, has been so acquired. Other hinderances to the appreciation of Mr. Kavanagh's book, will be his involved, discursive style; his frequent feeble digressions of the satiric order; and his occasional bad reasoning. Wholly absorbed in analogical criticism, he loses sight of the why-and-because, and occasionally puts down arrant nonsense, when he intends to be very pungent indeed. It is only patient and thoughtful readers, a little familiar with the tracks of speculation pursued by Mr. Kavanagh, who will be at the pains to read him through; and they will do so with frequent vexation at his inconsequence, his tortuousness, and his self-repetition. One volume, carefully pruned, would better have served Mr. Kavanagh's plans of propagandism than these two, which contain, however, a great deal of curious information and suggestion, and are avowedly the labour of years. Probably, they will prove a “crib” for future speculators; but they will neither cover the present author with glory, nor set the Thames of to-day in flames.

We all know what a *myth* is—the word being the first syllable of mythology, is enough to give a general idea of its meaning to a child. It is a *canard*, modern or ancient, born of a waking dream. You find an enormous mass of fabulous history, supernatural, quasi-supernatural, and purely natural, existing, say, in Greece. “All superstition and stuff,” being a more compendious than satisfactory solution of the difficulties involved in the fact, you cast about for another. Collating your own mental experiences with common observation, you fall upon the idea that there is in the human mind a tendency to throw off excitement in an imaginary history in which it has full play. Lovers, and enthusiasts of all classes, will understand this very well. It is, in truth, the poetic tendency, the tendency to turn thought into representative circumstance. Now carry back this idea to times when language was poor, and abstract expressions were few—when, e.g., a man, instead of saying “Discord is the origin of War,” would say, “War is the daughter of Hate;” or, in lieu of “The Sun gives light,” would put it, “The Sun begets the Morning;” and so on; and you can fancy how easily the waking dream of a speculator to account for something incomprehensible, or of an excited man to relieve his feelings, might grow up into a more or less symmetrical story, meeting more or less popular acceptance; and how these would by degrees accumulate, with Hebrew, Greek, or Red Indian, into a Mythology.

Now, of course, no intelligent person would refuse to admit as possible collateral influences upon this growth and accumulation, the equivocations and suggestions of words, in the earlier stages of the progress of a language. But this would not satisfy our friend Mr. Kavanagh, who goes the unmutilated animal for “THE WORD,” and, according to his title, traces myths “to their primary source, through language” only. We will do the best we can to explain his views, starting from his theory of language, to the development of which his first volume is chiefly devoted.

Whether you have or have not thought over Dr. Reid's well-known observation, that the performance of a good speaker making an oration is intrinsically more wonderful than a blindfold dance among a thousand red-hot ploughshares, you have often puzzled, we doubt not, over that marvellous agglomeration of particulars, a language. How did it grow? Why should “Jack kissed Jill” stand for the fact that Jack put his lips to that young lady's, any more than “Jack kicked Jill”? Then take particles—*a, the, very, to, of*. How did they grow? And abstract terms, how mysterious the process of their formation! Then the most careless general reader can scarcely have escaped noticing that, among the languages, and creeds, and symbols of nations separated by oceans and unconnected by (traceable) historic genealogies, there are resemblances of a startling character, constantly stultifying those archeological and other inquirers who will insist upon having an immediate theory to account for everything. Mr. Kavanagh undertakes to expound the formation of language upon principles which cover all possible cases, and account for all possible superstitions. As the force of an argument from analogy rests upon the juxtaposition of particulars, and as our space is limited, we cannot possibly do justice to his very ingenious and laborious illustrations of the first fact of his theory; but it is, in brief, this: The first articulate sound ever uttered by human being was an accident. Drawing a circle one day to express the sun—the most striking object in creation—his lips, by nervous sympathy, assumed the shape of an *O*, and that vowel happened to be pronounced by him. Here, then, was a connection established between a thing, a sound, and a sign: *i. e.*, we have the germ of language, at once written and spoken. Now, add to the *o* the simple stroke, or natural sign for *one*, and you have *a*, the first letter of the alphabet all over the world; with a little alteration you get *b*, the second letter; now double the *o*, and you have *B*; lay the *B* on its back, and you have *M*; on its belly, you have *W*; and so on. Well, all this is not quite new; and it is, you perceive, only saying, in other words, that the alphabet is a combination of straight lines and curves—which it must necessarily be. Then follow instances of the interchangeable use of consonants and vowels; resolutions of (apparently) widely different words into their elements, till a radical unity is (apparently) reached; repeated experiments of this sort; general conclusion that *all* words are traceable to the word meaning sun, by however circuitous a route,—a very strong case indeed being made out for this part of the author's theory; inference explanatory of the sanctity among all nations of THE WORD; the sun being the first object of all human worship, and *all* names of God being avowedly solar names in the first instance; various attempts to explain the growth of myths from the diverse meanings of *names*, when language was in its earliest stages. It is in the last item of his case that Mr. Kavanagh is least clear. His theory of the birth of language, however, will revolt even many readers who, with him, reject the idea of its being divinely communicated. Mr. Kavanagh is very averse from the notion that language is “natural” to man. It is easy to juggle with this adjective; but why is it more difficult to understand a natural instinct to employ both spoken and written signs than one to select food? Mr. Kavanagh replies, that Peter the Wild Boy, and others, secluded from society from infancy, have shown no “natural” power of forming expressive, articulate sounds. But speech being solely for communication, how should an isolated creature exercise the instinct? Again, says Mr. Kavanagh, deaf people have no spoken language. How should they, not having the idea of sound at all? We submit that it is quite possible that there are *ultimate fitnesses* in the radical elements of language; fitnesses not to be brought to the test of reason, of course, but appreciable by the pure instinct of language, if we could only have them mutually confronted. To this end, a more elaborate and refined generalisation than our author's may one day conduce; we may then discover the true philosophy of the philological analogies which now so frequently puzzle us; and Mr. Kavanagh's leading ideas may dovetail, without proving to be final.

While we cordially admit the consistency and cohesion, the self-proving character, of very much of Mr. Kavanagh's verbal analysis, we must fall under his ban of “superficiality,” we fear, by avowing our belief—which will also, we suspect, be that of our readers—that, once grant the interchangeableness of all consonants and all vowels, and add the trifle that when you have got the root of a word you may read it backwards or forwards, you may get almost anything you like out of your etymological crucible. Yet, how the most unlikely thing may prove reasonable, see from this instance:—

“But so far is every one from supposing that such a form as good can be related to such a form as boot, that good and better, or good and best, cannot be allowed to have originally belonged to the same people. There is, I recollect, a statement

to this effect somewhere in the ‘Vestiges of Creation.’ In Ogilvie's edition of Webster's Dictionary, I find also the following:—‘This word good has not the comparative and superlative degrees of comparison; but instead of them, better and best.’ But both these respectable authorities are, in this instance, greatly mistaken. For this simple reason, that as bear is equal to gear, and to the gear of gear, even so is good equal to bood, and this in its turn is, from the identity of ‘d’ and ‘t,’ equal to boot, of which the comparative and superlative degrees, that is, booter and bootest, have been contracted to better and best. Boot must have therefore once existed in the English or Saxon tongue in the sense of good. But why do I say once, since it exists even at the present hour? for what must have first been, or what is even still, the meaning of the locution, ‘what boots it?’ but ‘what good is it?’ And this corresponds precisely with the French locution, ‘que vaut-il?’ or, ‘à quoi bon?’”

Now let us give a plain example of the way in which Mr. Kavanagh applies his verbal analysis to the reduction of myths. After an allusion to the *Cabala* and St. John's *Logos*, he very happily proceeds as follows:—

“They are not to be despised, these foolish ideas about words and letters, as fit only for the amusement of children; but they should, on the contrary, be pounced upon as soon as perceived, and clutched and hugged with all the greedy love of a miser; who, when he picks up a piece of money in his path, does not, however trifling it may be, fling it from him with a laugh or a sneer, nor, thoughtless, hurry on; but, with a countenance full of seriousness, he tarries for a space where he first saw the coin, looking carefully all about the spot, wondering whence it came, and how it got there, and if it may not lead to more.”

Now, who must have been the first human being ever worshipped as a God? It must have been some remarkable man, whose name was perceived by the superstitious recorder of his exploits to be similar to that of the sun; and animals and inanimate things must have obtained divine honours for the same reason. But what must have been the result, when it was perceived that such a name signified not only the sun, but many other things besides? The superstition then prevailing must have endowed the person so called with just as many attributes as were implied by his name. Thus the word *Hermes* or *Mercurius* not differing from one of the numerous appellations of the sun, some remarkable person, distinguished from others by this name, was therefore—that is, on account of his name—regarded as a god; and the more so, as he belonged, most likely, when this belief began to obtain, to more ancient times. But on its being further perceived that the word *Hermes*, or *Mercurius*, was equally significant of words, merchandise, thieving, travelling, &c., the additional belief began to prevail that the personage so called was the god of orators, merchants, thieves, travellers, &c. But is it not likely, I may be asked, that men were designated in ancient times according to the peculiarities or qualities for which they were distinguished? Nothing can be more likely, since this custom prevails even still, more or less, amongst all people, but especially amongst those of primitive habits. But as it were, I believe, impossible to show an instance of a person having been ever designated by a characteristic epithet for more than one of his qualities, we may rest assured, when we meet with a single name signifying the several attributes for which a personage of antiquity was distinguished, that it was his name gave birth to the leading events in the history of his life, and that it was not the belief that prevailed respecting him gave birth to his name. It has, however, been hitherto supposed that the gods and goddesses of the heathen mythology obtained their names in accordance with the belief that once prevailed respecting them; and if these names had each only one meaning, this supposition would be very well founded. It would be equally so, if the different meanings of each name did not correspond, as they can be shown to do, with the history of the individuals to whom the names belong. Thus we could conceive that *Mercury* was so called, from the belief that he was the god of merchants, *merx* and *Mercurius* being radically similar; if we did not perceive that this name has several other meanings as well as that of *merx*, and that they all correspond, as I shall have occasion to show, with the history of the personage so called.

It is not unusual with the learned in their attempts to trace nations and religions to their earliest sources, to draw very positive conclusions from an identity of particular names or incidents, or from both. But these principles must show, when well understood and correctly applied, that such deductions, and the arguments drawn from them, are very far from being conclusive. As all languages appear, as far as I can perceive, to have been made after the same manner, it follows that their words must, in numerous instances, bear a very close resemblance to each other; and, for the same reason, so must the fables to which these words have given birth. One nation may be, therefore, found to have not only several of the religious doctrines and leading events belonging to the ancient history of another nation, but even several of the very names by which its fabulous characters and celebrated towns and rivers were first known. And so extraordinary a coincidence as this may have very well happened without either of these nations having ever had the least intercourse with the other, but merely from certain words in their languages having suggested similar ideas.”

In proof of our charge of occasional inconsequence and absurdity, we quote this ridiculous passage about “Hell”:—

“The people, for instance, who first entertained the merciful idea that hell is a lake of fire, must, since its primary signification is hole or low place, have had in their language little or no difference between the words expressing fire and earth. The Saxon of fire is *fyr*, which is equal to its Greek form *pur*; and as neither of these can differ from *fer*, which in ancient times must have been often written *fyr*, *fur*, or *pur*; we see how difficult it would be for a people believing in the Word, and having such an expression for hell as *enfer* or *infer* (root of *infernus*), not to believe that when they reached hell their souls would be in fire. And if their priests, learned in the doctrine of the Word, could allow them to perceive that the *fer* of such a word as *enfer* was equal to *et*, and consequently to *ever*, then the dreadful belief would necessarily be, that the fire of hell was eternal.”

On the whole, we are inclined to think the author's myth theory leaves too little substratum for the *myths*. When he has explained all the stories about the phoenix by different meanings of the word, how much of the phoenix itself is left for the stories to cluster around? We are inclined to think, also, that his wonderful verbal analyses might cohere with another and truer theory of language. But, after saying all this, and making every deduction for Mr. Kavanagh's deficiencies as a writer, both as to style and method, we can assure intelligent readers that the book is one we should be sorry to miss from our shelves; and that the writer has opened up some new and fertile tracks of historico-linguistic investigation.

The Journal of Psychological Medicine. London: Churchill.

THIS publication is not, as its name would imply, a merely technical and medical one. It treats upon subjects in which every educated man should feel deep interest, and with which it is almost a necessity for him to become conversant. Few causes are more fruitful of insanity, or more distressing in their results, than overworking of the brain, yet the greater the advance of civilisation the higher will be the demand and consequently the premium upon intellectual exertion. The very prize-fighter and athlete never enter upon a contest without some studious consideration and scientific training of the physical powers upon which their success depends, while the man whose sole reliance is upon the health and activity of his brain, neglects but too frequently the sole conditions by which its usefulness can be retained. The signs of insanity are so little understood, and so little attention is paid to the subject as a branch of general knowledge, that although cases daily occur involving judicial decisions upon mental aberration, not even our judges dare attempt its definition, and medical men almost unanimously declare it undefinable. The “Psychological Journal” which records from time to time the advances of science with respect to the study of mental disease, is well calculated to assist in the gradual dissipation of the ignorance so generally displayed in this peculiar instance. The articles appear to exhibit as little technicality as can possibly be considered consistent with the medical and curative intention of the work. Among them, is one upon the “Autobiography of the Insane,” in which a curious relation is made by a recovered patient of his feelings and impressions during a fit of temporary madness. The Editor contributes a temperate, but forcible, refutation of the opinions lately enunciated by Mr. Snape in vindication of his conduct in administering a shower-bath followed by a violent emetic to a pauper lunatic. It will perhaps be remembered that the patient, who was an obstinate and generally intractable person, carried his contumacy so far as to persist in dying, instead of recovering, under this mild and scientific system. Mr. Snape, not satisfied with the throwing out by the grand jury of the indictment against him, has written in defence of the practice, which appears to form his usual method of proceeding. The Editor of the “Psychological Journal” (without reference to the particular case indicated) attacks Mr. Snape's theory, as propounded in his pamphlet, in which he advocates for the relief of insanity “the prostration of the system.”

A valuable paper upon the Insanity of King George the Third is among the contents of this number, and possesses the advantage, while carefully noting and preserving the important medical facts, of presenting the subject less under a professional than an historical aspect.

THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH has been introduced into Java, and a line of wires completed between Batavia and Buitenzorg, the first intelligence by it having been transmitted to the Governor-General on the 22nd of October, in the space of four minutes. The line is to be immediately extended.

GALLANT RESCUE OF THE CREW OF THE SHIP "NORTHERN BELLE."

MANY instances of the exhibition of the noble qualities of the British boatman are on record; but seldom, if ever, have they shone so conspicuously as they did the other day in the rescue of the crew of the *Northern Belle*, off Kingsgate, near Broadstairs. The narrative of this gallant undertaking was first made public by Mr. John Lang, a resident at Broadstairs, and author of many popular works, in a letter to the "Times" newspaper. On Monday, the 5th inst., he writes, at 3 A.M., an American ship, the *Northern Belle*, of 1,100 tons, bound from New York to London, with a general cargo, came to an anchor off Kingsgate, and distant from the shore about three-quarters of a mile. At 6 A.M. she rode very heavily, and the sea at times broke completely over her. At 6.30 A.M. the crew cut away the mizen and main mast. The ship then rode easier; but as the day advanced the gale increased in violence, and the sea ran proportionably high. At 8 A.M. it was feared that the ship would part from her anchors, and come on shore, and a message was despatched to Broadstairs to that effect. The Broadstairs boatmen, who are renowned for their alacrity, immediately harnessed themselves to the truck on which the life-boat—the *Mary White*—is always ready, and proceeded to drag it from Broadstairs to Kingsgate, a distance of two miles over a heavy and hilly country.

At 9 A.M. the boat arrived at Kingsgate. By this time the news of the ship's dangerous position was spread throughout the neighbourhood, and by 11 o'clock the cliffs were crowded by persons of all ranks from Margate, Ramsgate, and Broadstairs. Some hundreds of persons were present.

At 11.30 A.M. the multitude assembled were destined to witness a very painful sight. A Margate lugger, called the *Victory*, was hovering about the ship, in the hope of rendering her some assistance, when a huge sea struck her, and she suddenly disappeared from sight. She and her crew of nine men went down, and were no more seen. The luggers *Ocean* and *Eclipse*, of Margate, had previously put five hands on board the *Northern Belle*.



JAMES ROWE. ROBERT NEWING MILLER.

JOHN CASTLE. GEORGE DANIEL CASTLE. WILLIAM HILLER. EDWARD EMPTAGE. GEORGE FOX.
THE CREW OF THE "MARY WHITE" LIFE-BOAT.

At noon, it was expected every moment that the ship would come on shore upon the rocks beneath the cliff; but she held on, the crowd remaining until dark anxiously watching the vessel, despite the hail, sleet, and snow which began to descend.

Between 10 and 11 P.M. the ship parted with her anchor and drove

A second life-boat, the *Culmer White*, which had also been wheeled from Broadstairs, to be ready in the event of the first life-boat being lost, was now launched, and went off to the wreck.

The names of the brave crew which manned this boat were—John Cowell, William Wales, Jethrow Miller, John Sandwell, Thomas Holborn,

upon the rocks. At this hour it would have been utterly impossible to launch the life-boat, for the hail, sleet, and snow prevented the men from seeing any object whatever; and the spot whence it would be necessary to put off was distant more than half a mile. When day broke, at between six and seven o'clock, this morning (Tuesday week), an awful sight was revealed to those on the cliffs and on the beach. With the naked eye twenty-three men could be discerned lashed to the rigging of the only mast left standing. What these poor creatures must have suffered during the night, the reader will readily imagine.

At half-past seven A.M. the life-boat, the *Mary White*, was manned. Since July, 1850, when this boat was presented to the boatmen of Broadstairs by Mr. Thomas White, of Cowes, she has saved many lives, and her crew have encountered many dangers; but never has she been engaged in a matter of such peculiar peril as that of this day. Wrecks and the saving of life are such common occurrences in this part of the country, that an ordinary case scarcely creates any comment; but this was a very extraordinary case, and it has elicited the wonder and applause of the many who witnessed it.

Seven brave men pulled through a boiling surf and raging sea, which several times hid them from sight, and filled those on shore with alarm for their safety. The names of these heroic individuals were John Castle, George Castle, William Hiller, and Robert Miller, of Broadstairs, and Edward Emptage, James Rowe, and George Fox, of Margate.

When seven out of the twenty-three men upon the wreck had been got into the life-boat, it was found necessary to cut her adrift and disentangle her from the ship. With these seven men the boat returned to the shore, amid the cheers of the many persons assembled on the beach.



THE RETURN OF THE "MARY WHITE" LIFE-BOAT FROM THE WRECK OF THE "NORTHERN BELLE," WITH SEVEN OF THE CREW.



THE RESCUED CREW OF THE AMERICAN SHIP "NORTHERN BELLE" ON THEIR WAY TO THE "CAPTAIN DIGBY" AT KINGSGATE.

William Ralph, of Broadstairs; and George Emptage, John Gilbert, and either Robert Parker or Charles Emptage, of Margate. This boat succeeded in bringing away four-tern. The two remaining were the captain, and the pilot, who had been taken in at Dover. The former declared that he would rather die than leave his vessel, and the latter expressed a desire to remain and perish in the old man's company.

After an hour and a half had elapsed, the *Culmer White* life-boat left the shore for the second time, in order to persuade these two men to save their lives. The men who manned it on this occasion were John Cowell, William Wales, Jethrow Miller, Jerry Walker, Fred Lawrence, Thomas Sandwell, Robert Simpson, and James Bere, of Broadstairs; Robert Parker, George Emptage and Alfred Emptage or John Gilbert, of Margate. After much difficulty, they succeeded in bringing the captain and pilot safe to shore.

"These men," writes Mr. Lang, "were not labouring under any species of excitement when they engaged in the perilous duty which they performed so nobly and so well. Under the impression that they would never return—the impression of all who witnessed their departure from the shore—I watched their countenances closely. There was nothing approaching bravado in their demeanour—nothing to give a spectator an idea that they were



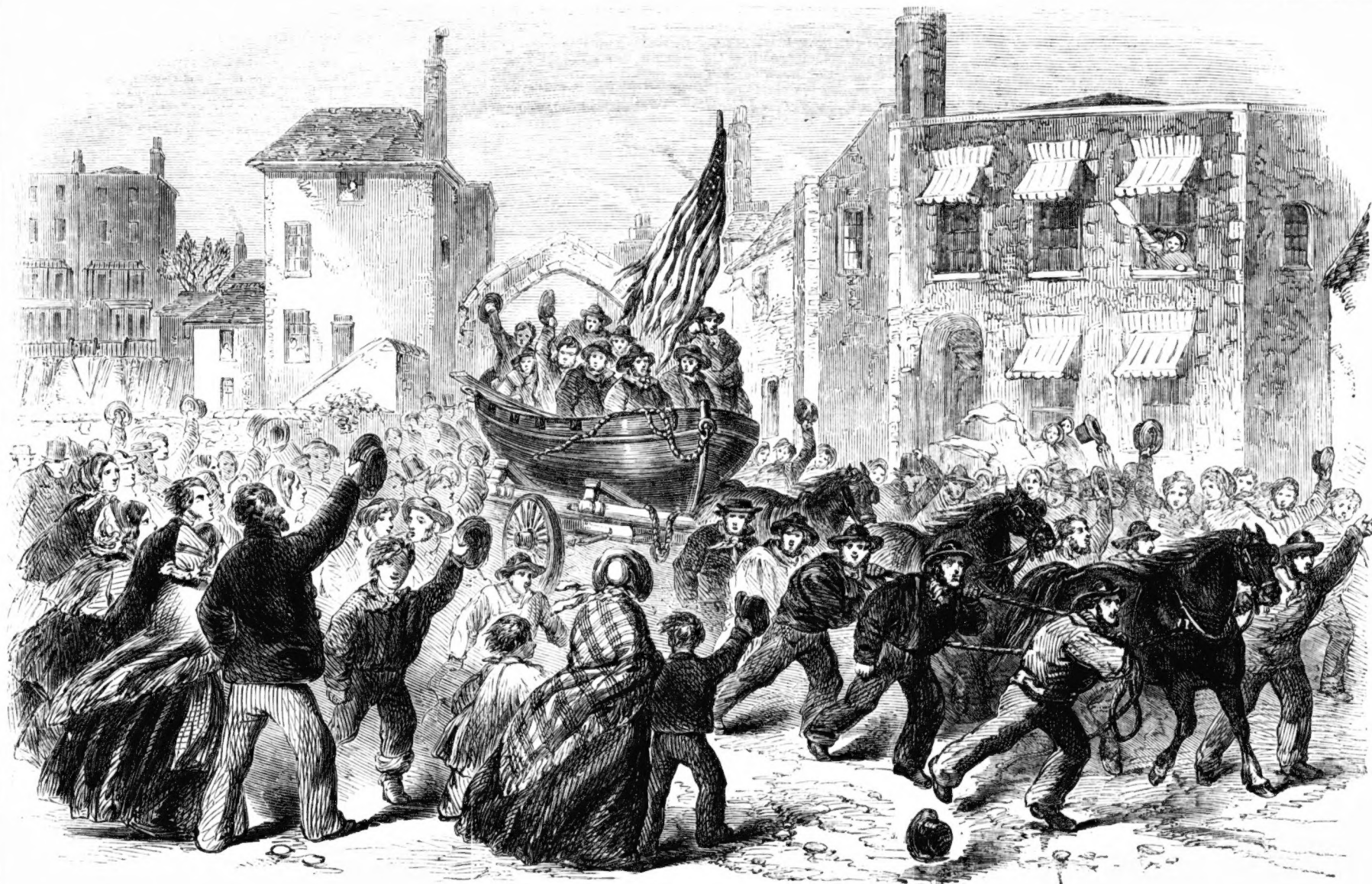
THE RESCUED CREW IN THE LITTLE PARLOUR OF THE "CAPTAIN DIGBY."

about to engage in a matter of life or death to themselves and the crew clinging to the fore rigging of the ship *Northern Belle*. They had no hope of a 'decoration' or of pecuniary reward, when, with a coolness of manner and a calmness of mind which contrasted strongly with the energy of their movements, they 'stripped to their shirts,' and bounded into the *Mary White* and *Culmer White* to storm batteries of billows far more appalling to the human mind than batteries surmounted by cannon and bristling with bayonets. There could be no question about the heroism of these men.

"To describe the scene on the beach when it was known that all hands had been saved, is beyond my power. A more affecting scene was seldom witnessed. There were tears of gratitude shed by the Americans, tears of joy and of pride by the Broadstairs and Margate boatmen.

"Benumbed as the shipwrecked men were, they could scarcely partake of the refreshment which was provided for them in the little warm parlour of the 'Captain Digby,' the solitary inn which stands upon the cliff at Kingsgate."

When they were safely housed there, the second mate of the *Northern Belle* grasped Mr. Lang warmly by the hand, and expressed the pride he felt in his English descent. "None but Englishmen," said he, "would have come off to



THE RETURN OF THE "MARY WHITE" TO BROADSTAIRS.

our rescue in such a sea." It is this interesting incident which is represented in the centre engraving on the previous page.

The publication of Mr. Lang's eloquent letter instantly called forth substantial marks of sympathy for the men who had so nobly risked their lives in the performance of this gallant and humane act. General Campbell, the United States' Consul, appealed to his countrymen to contribute towards a fund for their benefit. Mr. Croskey, the American merchant, sent a cheque for £50, and some smaller amounts were forwarded to Mr. Lang at Broadstairs. One of the subscribers was a lady "whose husband crossed the Channel on the night of the 5th inst., and when off the outer edge of the Goodwin at daybreak next morning was within so short a distance of the Northern Belle as to hear cries from those still clinging to the wreck, himself expecting each moment that the steamer in which he crossed would not outlive the violence of the storm."

Mr. White, jun., the son of the donor of the Broadstairs life-boats, wrote a characteristic letter to Mr. Croskey, which we here reproduce:—

"Croskey, Jan. 8.
"My dear Sir,—The thirteen resolute fellows that saved the lives of the crew of the Northern Belle, and carried her engine in triumph to their homes, is a capital sequel to the late demonstration of good feeling that exists between England and America, and we rejoice also in having indirectly had a hand in reciprocating this good feeling, by furnishing the two boats to our brave fellow-countrymen."

"I suppose they will get no other reward than the few shillings per head that is allowed, the boats not belonging to the General Shipwreck Society."

"It has rushed into my mind," wrote Mr. Croskey, "and if he thought proper to lay the matter before his countrymen in New York, as I see she hails from that port, the underwriters, or owners, or some one, might be disposed to give them a pat on the back, so that the flag they have so bravely won may be kept in the little town of Broadstairs, and hoisted to tell to their children of services rendered to Americans, and gratefully acknowledged by American liberality."

"My dear Sir, yours faithfully,
"JOHN WHITE."

These letters were followed by one from the captain of the Northern Belle, Mr. Thomas Trott, in which he remarks as follows:—"No one can more completely appreciate—and I am sure no one can more admire—the noble bravery and the high humanity of those men who came out in that terrific gale to rescue me and my crew from a watery grave at the tremendous risk of that fate to themselves. I am, and we all are, most thankful to them, and it was with heartfelt satisfaction I heard immediately from my agents, Messrs. Windsor Brothers, that they would take all care in their power that they should not go unrewarded, so far as this world's good feeling towards such conduct as theirs could be strained. I rejoice to see that other kind persons, as also our Consul, have taken their cause in hand; and I feel quite sure, from the kindness and sympathy I have myself received at all hands, that these brave men will not be neglected in this country, as I know they will not be in my own America. I have requested my agents (Messrs. Windsor Brothers, 115, Leadenhall Street) to place £20 for me to the fund which they hope to raise. I trust you will assist to call attention to it, and I would ask every one who can spare a mite to add it for the benefit of those men who, under God's blessing, and under such perilous and trying circumstances, have saved the lives of the captain and crew of the Northern Belle."

In the "Times" of Monday last various letters appeared calling attention to the claims which the wives and families of the crew of the Victory lugger had upon the sympathies of the benevolent. One of these, from a Mr. Holmes, was in the following terms:—

"The Victory lugger, belonging to Margate, with a crew of nine men, on the first appearance of danger to the ill-fated ship put to sea, regardless alike of the boiling surf as of their own lives and property, on their mission of mercy, when, on nearing the object of their perilous attempt, and in sight of hundreds of persons on the cliff, she was struck by a tremendous sea, and every soul perished."

"No, sir, these poor men have all left wives and families entirely unprovided for. I trust I need not say more to place them side by side in the public sympathies with their noble compeers of the Broadstairs life-boats."

"The Victory, a well-known boat to many Margate visitors, was worth from £500 to £600. Enclosed is a list of the names of the crew as forwarded to me to-day:—Isaac Solly, aged 46; John Smith, aged 63; George Smith, aged 29 (father and son); William Emptage, sen., aged 52; John Emptage, aged 29 (father and son); Charles Fuller, aged 34; Henry Paramor, aged 27; Frederick Batt, aged 22; Abraham Busbridge, aged 35."

"I have no doubt that Messrs. Cobb and Co., the Margate bankers, or Messrs. Barnett, Hoare, and Co., their London agents, would gladly receive subscriptions in aid of these poor men's widows and orphans."

STATISTICS OF THE BRITISH FLEET.—The British fleet in commission on the 1st of January, 1857, numbered 261 ships, 5,078 guns, and 48,798 men, as compared with the last year of the war, January 1, 1856, when the strength was 325 ships, 6,231 guns, and 63,335 men. The ships on the East India station have been increased, while those in the Mediterranean have been diminished in number. The difference between the war and the peace fleet, according to the above figures, is a reduction of 64 ships, 1,153 guns, and 14,537 seamen, marines, and boys.

MR. BRITTON'S LABOURS.—A paper containing many interesting details of the career of the late John Britton, was recently read at the Royal Institution of British Actuaries. These we previously gave at length in an obituary notice (see the last number of the "Illustrated Times"); it now remains to notice the extent of his literary labours. For Mr. Rees's "Cyclopædia," it appears Mr. Britton wrote in all 800 quarto pages. He afterwards published his great work on the architectural antiquities of Great Britain, on which was expended £17,092, and of which 1,300 copies were sold at prices varying from 28 12s. to £43. On his "Cathedral Antiquities," £19,000 was expended; and another work of his on Normandy, and a third on London, in both of which he was joined by Mr. Pugin, had great and merited success. Of the last-named work 1,000 copies were sold. It was a curious fact, however, that the two of his productions which had the greatest success, related to topics wholly apart from his ordinary pursuits. Of his "Lecture on Railways" 5,000 copies were sold, and an octavo of 139 pages on the "Pleasures of Human Life," sold 2,000. In the course of his long literary career he wrote 11,000 pages, caused 1,700 line engravings to be executed, and directed the outlay of £115,000. The result of all this labour and outlay had been to give new life to the topography of this country. Mr. Wyatt (who read the paper), concluded his obituary notice with a suggestion that a subscription should be raised for the erection of a tablet to their deceased friend's memory in Salisbury Cathedral, which was unanimously and promptly responded to by the meeting.

AN ODONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—A new society, the Odontological, has been organised, and held its first meeting last week, when an inaugural address was delivered by Samuel Cartwright, Esq., F.R.S., the President. Most of the educated and regular practitioners of dental surgery belong to this society, which is established for mutual fellowship and information in matters pertaining to their profession.

THEATRICALS AT WINDSOR CASTLE.—The first of a series of performances at Windsor Castle, commenced on Thursday with the "School for Scandal." The "cast" was as follows:—Sir Peter Tazle, Mr. B. Webster; Sir Oliver Surface, Mr. Frank Matthews; Crabtree, Mr. Compton; Sir Benjamin Backbite, Mr. Buckstone; Moses, Mr. Robson; Joseph Surface, Mr. Wigan; Charles Surface, Mr. G. Vining; Trip, Mr. Leigh Murray; Rowley, Mr. Cullenford; Snake, Mr. Charles Selby; Mrs. Candour, Mrs. Wigan; Lady Teazle, Miss Woolgar; Maria, Miss Turner; Lady Sneerwell, Mrs. Poynter. Next Thursday, we believe, the play will be the "Honey-moon."

THE NEW METAL.—It has been discovered that aluminium will hardly answer the hopes which have been entertained of it. It is true it does not blacken by exposure to sulphureous exhalations like silver, but it tarnishes by exposure to moisture, and is damaged by contact with warm water. Moreover, it is blue in aspect, more like zinc than silver, and therefore less attractive. But uses for aluminium are dawning which were little anticipated on the discovery of the metal. It is now being employed in the casting of bells. No metal or combination of metals yields a tone so musically sweet when struck as aluminium: provided therefore the cost of its production be not too great, no metal can compare with aluminium for casting of bells. As to the cost of aluminium, it may be already considered, bulk for bulk, about one-third the price of silver; and cryolite, the mineral from which it can be obtained with greatest facility, is found to an unlimited extent in Greenland.

THE ANTI POOR LAW BOARD LEAGUE.—A public meeting, convened by the Anti-Poor Law Board League, was held on Monday evening, at the Marylebone Court House, for the purpose of "protesting against the unconstitutional and irresponsible power" of the Poor Law Board, and to adopt measures for effecting (through the medium of Parliament) a thorough reformation of the law governing the Poor Law Board. Communications were read from Sir B. Hall, M.P., Sir James Duke, M.P., Sir R. Brooke Pechell, M.P., Apsley Pellatt, Esq., M.P., Sir John Shelley, M.P., and other Members of Parliament, expressive of their opinions in favour of the objects of the League; and also a long letter from Viscount Ebrington in defence of the Poor Law Board. Mr. D'Alfanger moved the adoption of a petition to Parliament embodying several resolutions. He said that the Poor Law Board was a species of inquisition and centralisation such as was adopted in France; but even there it was beginning to be repudiated. The motion was carried.

SPLENDID POSTAL DISTRICT MAP OF LONDON,

Size 2 Feet 3 Inches by 3 Feet,

TO BE ISSUED TO SUBSCRIBERS TO THE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES."

The Proprietors of the "Illustrated Times" desire to announce to their subscribers that they have in preparation

A LARGE AND ELABORATELY-ENGRAVED

MAP OF LONDON,

ON THE SCALE OF 3 INCHES TO THE MILE,

With the Names of all the Streets distinctly shown, and with

THE DIVISIONS OF THE NEW POSTAL DISTRICTS

clearly defined. This Map, which is 2 feet 3 inches in depth by 3 feet in width, will be printed upon a sheet of paper the same size as the "Illustrated Times," and, although it is an exact counterpart, not only as regards size, but in point of minute finish, of the Map prepared by Direction of the Postmaster-General for the use of the London and Provincial Post Offices, and which is sold to the public at 5s., it will be issued to subscribers to the "Illustrated Times" at

THE PRICE OF AN ORDINARY NUMBER OF THE PAPER,

NAMELY, 2½D.,

a price which, even in these days of cheapness, is without a parallel.

Specimens will be ready for the trade in the course of a few days; and the Map itself will be issued with the newspaper as soon as a sufficient number of copies can be printed off to meet the enormous Demand certain to arise for an article which the recent Division of the Metropolis into Postal Districts has rendered indispensable to every Letter-writer in the Kingdom.

ENGRAVINGS AFTER PICTURES IN THE TURNER COLLECTION.

In the number of the "Illustrated Times" which will accompany the Map, will be commenced the publication of a series of

HIGHLY FINISHED ENGRAVINGS ON A LARGE SCALE

after the

CHOICEST PICTURES OF THE TURNER COLLECTION AT MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.

These will be produced in the VERY HIGHEST STYLE OF WOOD ENGRAVING ART, and will be printed with the greatest care. The series will be continued from week to week until completed.

TITLE-PAGE, INDEX, AND PREFACE

TO VOLUME THIRD OF THE

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

are now ready and may be procured of the Agents, Price ONE PENNY. Persons finding any difficulty in obtaining copies, will, on forwarding Two Stamps to this Office, receive the Title-sheet by return of Post.

CASES FOR BINDING VOLUME THE THIRD

Are also ready. Price 2s. each.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

JUVENIS.—No. 76.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1857.

"EOTHEN" AT NEWPORT.

If we had a vote for Newport, we should be inclined to give it to Mr. Kinglake, even though we did not agree with him. He has written one of the best books of the day; he is a man of real genius. Now, everybody who professes to want to reform things, sees that to get men of faculty—as many such men as possible—is the great business of the age. Indeed, what is revolution—what is democracy—but an attempt, consciously or unconsciously, to manage this? The great Revolution of '89, which will affect Europe while Europe lasts, was but a passionate struggle on the part of the French to shake off sham leadership, and get real leadership. When it will end, who can tell?—but if the want had not been genuine, it would never have begun.

Mr. Kinglake has been talking too much in the style of the Administrative Reformers. They want—he wants—we want—administrative reform. But do not let such men as Mr. Kinglake be too confident about the kind of way in which it is to be got. The Association, so far as we can see, would give us a Mr. Merdle instead of a Lord Decimus—new money power vice hereditary money power. It would give us a higher class of tradesmen, in fact, for our rulers. Now, let us have men of business in power here and there; but let us also have men of genius. A Hawes or a Hume, a Wilson or a Thwaites, is a very useful kind of man; but there is a finer kind of mind—call it, if you please, a "literary" kind of mind—which ought to have its chance too. Our readers will readily remember many occasions on which we have preached on the superiority of the man of action in politics. But there is room in life for the man of letters too,—and ought to be room in Parliament—room in government. At present, the set rather is against this kind of man among the political public, and we mean to-day to "show cause" why he should have a better hearing.

The literary king is rare. An Alfred, or a Cæsar, or a Frederick, does not often come. But can the literary character not do his share in government respectably? Cicero was a good consul, and A.U.C. 691 is one of the most glorious in Roman annals. Pliny was a respectable governor of a province; Grotius was a good ambassador,—as were Prior and Sir Baubury Williams. What Burke might have been in a high office, the Whigs took very good care the world should never be able to judge; but Sheridan's conduct, when the Mutiny at the Nore took place, was first-rate. We do not hear Sir Cornwall Lewis found fault with in finance, yet he has spent half his life on Latin and Greek. Mr. Disraeli is generally thought to be something of a leader; and the way in which Macaulay mastered the statistics at the War Office is still a cherished tradition there. In fact, a drop or two of genius does not quite spoil a man, as it is so delightfully flattering to prosaic dunces to believe. Even if he is not a master in business, still his presence in an assembly like Parliament has its own high value. A certain originality will mark his way of looking at things—a certain reference to first principles, and the touch of sentiment which belongs to that kind of perception, will distinguish him. Besides, why not have wit, grace, eloquence, in life, as much as love or music? We do not object even to a joker in Parliament. The ship of the State, like a man-of-war, will be found to get through its work all the better for having a fiddler.

Seriously, why should the power of criticising a Greek play necessarily disqualify a man for understanding the Rule of Three? Did it spoil Canning? We are all too apt to be bits of men, instead of

men. We classify narrowly, and form prejudices which every day puts to shame. How natural to think that a young patrician should be an elegant trifler; yet here is Lord Stanley—of purest patrician ancestry—who is profound on the sugar question, and up to every detail about tallow or the rate of wages. A man of parts, in fact, can resolutely set himself to learn anything; and if you show the Kinglake that you mean to encourage them, they will take as quick to the timber trade returns as to sonnets on palm-trees. Such "heavy" subjects lose their prose when they are viewed in the mass, and in their relation to the welfare of the people of a great kingdom.

If the middle classes and people are really in earnest in wishing to share the political power with the Whig oligarchs and their nominees, they must fraternise with the class of which we have been speaking more than they do. They must clear their minds of misunderstandings, and they must avoid all absurd jealousies. It is entirely their own affair, and in their own hands; and they have never used their boroughs with half the service to the State, or half the recognition of talent, that the old rotten borough proprietors did. When they begin to see this unpleasant truth, and to act upon it, we shall think more hopefully of the cause than we do at present. Meanwhile, whether a particular man of letters be fit for public life or not, he is a very poor fellow who does not feel his own studies his best consolation, and is not ready to resign other ambitions for them, if the world is not willing to give those ambitions their chance. We believe Mr. Kinglake to be "equal to either fortune;" and it is for that reason that we hope the best fortune will befall him.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

PRINCE ALBERT, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice, visited Oxford last week, and inspected the many objects of interest at the University.

A CYCLOPÆD'S JURY (AT GALWAY), recently returned a verdict to the effect, that Martin Walsh, his wife Ellen, and their daughters Judith and Anne, aged five and two, were killed by eating mackerel, which had evidently not been salted till after they had become putrid.

THE FORTIFICATIONS OF ODESSA have been completely disarmed, and the wet weather contributes to the destruction of the earthworks, so that there are only a few coast-batteries which will retain their garrisons.

THE IRON-SHIPBUILDING WORKS OF MR. MARK, on the Thames, have been bought by a limited liability company, the shares of which are £5,000 each.

MR. OKELY, of Trinity College, Cambridge, one of the Travelling Bachelors of that University, has been received into the Roman Catholic Church.

A FEMALE PAUPER IN LAMBETH WORKHOUSE was found dead on the staircase last week. She had thrown herself down.

THE POOR-LAW BOARD wrote to the Gateshead Poor-law Guardians asking to be informed of the exact quantity of flour used to a pound of suet pudding. It was proposed that, on the next occasion they were made, one of the dumplings should be sent to the commissioners to judge for themselves: the proposition, was adopted, amid loud laughter.

A FLOCK OF SHEEP strayed on the London and Portsmouth Railway lately and fifty-three were killed.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE has given orders that all regiments serving in India be forthwith completed to their full establishment.

A LAD, NAMED NESBITT, in attempting to jump over some molten iron, at Newcastle, fell into it, and after a week's suffering died.

MR. WILLIAM BROWN, M.P. for South Lancashire, has undertaken to erect at his own expense a building for the Liverpool Free Library and Museum; and the Town-Council have marked their sense of this munificence by resolving to place a marble bust of Mr. Brown in one of the niches of St. George's Hall, and his portrait in the Free Library.

AN ACCOUNT OF SIR CHARLES NAPIER'S BALTIC CAMPAIGN, proceeding from the pen of the Admiral himself, is about to be published.

A COMPLAINT has been made that bankers refuse to pay any money on a cheque where the sums stated in the body and at the left-hand corner differ in any particular; and it has been suggested that they might at least pay the smaller amount written on the cheque. This, however, would be counter to the legal rule, that the words written in the body of the cheque constitute the effective order.

THE VALUE OF COTTON YARN sent abroad from January to November was £7,311,738.

MR. CHARLES GUTHRIE has resigned the office of surgeon to the Westminster Hospital. His health has compelled him to retire. Long has the name of Guthrie been associated with that institution; and it is not without a feeling of regret that we announce the retirement of the last representative of that family from the institution.

ABOUT £10,000 more being required for the complete restoration of Doncaster Church, the Town Council has voted an additional £4,000. Mr. E. B. Denison has given a second £500; the committee do not doubt that they can raise the rest.

BY THE EARTHQUAKE IN CRTE, on the 12th of October, 538 persons were killed, and 637 wounded; 6,512 buildings were destroyed, and 11,317 damaged. Great distress has followed; and Mr. H. S. Ongle, writing from Canca, asks for the alleviating aid of the English public.

THE WOOL SHIPPED FROM MELBOURNE during the past season amounted to 12,027,680 pounds, valued at £787,604.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF INFANTRY (Sir Colin Campbell) has ordered that every subaltern in the British army of less than two years' service, shall be required to fill up and return a monthly report of the state of his regiment to the officer commanding his depot.

THE ANNUAL SOIREE of the Richmond Parochial Library and Reading-room Institution took place on Friday week. About 600 of the members and friends took tea together. The room was tastefully decorated with evergreens, Christmas trees, and flags.

A GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER OF CORNWILLE, Mme. Veuve Girard, née Cornille, died last week, at Carpentras, at the age of eighty-five years.

MR. HUGH MILLER'S LAST WORK, "The Testimony of the Rocks," which he finished on the day of his death, will be published before the end of January.

THE SOCIÉTÉ REGIONALE D'ACCLIMATATION OF NANCY has issued a curious pamphlet, in which they earnestly recommend farmers to breed horses for human food.

CAULKERS lent from Devonport have just arrived to assist in expediting the ships on the stocks at Pembroke Dockyard, many of which are in an advanced state of progress. The contract works are proceeding with great rapidity, considering the very unsettled state of the weather.

A CHILD four years of age, was recently killed by drinking some boiling water from the spout of a tea-kettle.

THE BRITISH AND SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH COMPANIES are now amalgamated.

MRS. SEACOLE, whose name is so closely associated with the Crimean campaign, passed through the Bankruptcy Court without opposition last week.

CHRIST CHURCH, MONTREAL, was recently destroyed, and with it, of course, the organ. Mr. Warren, the organist, took this latter loss so much to heart, that he died shortly after of sheer depression of spirits.

TELEGRAPH WIRES are to be laid down in Tasmania. The projected line is from George Town to Mount Lewis.

A BED OF SEA-SAND, containing numerous shells, both univalves and bivalves, of supposed extinct species, commingled with what appears to be drift wood in large pieces, was recently discovered by some excavators at Upper Clapton.

MR. FREDERICK GURNEY, a gentleman of considerable property, was found on Friday week dead in the Regent's Canal, Camden Town. He was about fifty-six years of age. When he left home, he had with him a gold watch and two diamond rings; and these were missing from the body. A suspicion of foul play is consequently engendered.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON has received a new Chancellor in the person of Earl Granville, and an accession of six new Fellows in Lord Stanley, the Right Hon. M. T. Baines, Sir E. Ryan, Sir J. Heywood, M.P., and Drs. Gail and Wood. The council have very wisely and properly determined to receive the Working Men's College among the affiliated seminaries. It is proposed to found a People's College in Liverpool.

THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY of the establishment of a literary and educational institution at the Gorton Locomotive Works, near Manchester, was celebrated by a soiree at the Free Trade Hall, on Friday.

THE OLD MANSION ON RICHMOND GREEN, known as Hope House, and devoted for several years to a school for the education of daughters of naval officers, was destroyed by fire on Sunday morning.

THE MERCHANTS AND BANKERS OF LONDON propose to hold a meeting on the 19th inst., to consider the state of the law in relation to warrants for goods.

M. LUDOL ROLLIN, they say in Paris, was lately elected a member of the Council-General of the department of the Aisne; but the Government has prohibited the publication of the fact.

A curious story is afloat in relation to the recently published "Letters of Boswell." After remaining for some time in the hands of the original purchaser, who was utterly ignorant of their value, they were presented by him to his nephew, a young barrister in the Temple, who parted with them to Mr. Bentley for really a nominal sum. An intimate friend of the vendor's was to have had the editing, but having occupation during the war at Constantinople, the task originally assigned to him passed into other hands, and Mr. Bentley has obtained what will be, no doubt, a very remunerative book, at a very small outlay.

"Then inside, what dear old quaintnesses! which I began to look at with delight even when I was so crude a member of the congregation, that my nurse found it necessary to provide for the reinforcement of my devotional patience by smugging bread-and-butter into the sacred edifice. There was the chancel, guarded by two little cherubims looking uncomfortably squeezed between arch and wall, and adorned with the ecutheons of the Oldinport family, which showed me inexhaustible possibilities of meaning in their blood-red hands, their death'-heads and cross-bones, their leopard's paws, and Maltese crosses. There were inscriptions on the panels of the singing-gallery, telling of benefactions to the poor of Shepperton, with an inviolated elegance of capitals and final flourishes, which my alphabetic erudition traced with ever-new delight. No benches in those days; but huge roomy pews, round which devout church-goers sat during 'lessons,' trying to look anywhere else than into each other's eyes. No low partitions allowing you, with a dreary absence of contrast and mystery, to see everything at all moments; but tall dark panels, under whose shadow I sank with a sense of retirement through the Litany, only to feel with more intensity my burst into the conspicuousness of public life when I was made to stand up on the seat during the psalms or the singing.

The "Commercial Travellers' Magazine" is scarcely so lively this month as usual, and a speech in which the publication was favourably mentioned by Sir E. B. Lytton is rather too strongly puffed.

The composition with which the Wassail Bowl was filled, was known as *lamb's wool*, and consisted of ale, nutmeg, and sugar, with toast and roasted apples floating on the surface. The bowl was adorned with ribbons and evergreens, and the young women sang a carol inviting the people of the house before which they stopped to drink. The learned Selden seems to have been opposed to the custom, and to have considered the lamb's wool as an imposition and a cheat; for in his "Table Talk" he writes—"The Pope in sending relics to princes does as wenches do to their wassails at New Year's tide: they present you with a cup, and you must drink of a slabby suff; but the meaning is, you must give them money ten times more than it is worth."

Etymologists seem to have been sorely puzzled to find out the exact meaning of wassail. Verstegan writes that it means *wax, grow, or become hoile*. Selden asserts that it means *wish-hail*. The clearest explanation of wassail is taken from Robert de Brume:

"This is their custom and their gait
When they are at the ale or fest.
Iik man that loves ware him think
Salle say, Wassail, and to him drink.
He that bids alle say, Wassail;
The tother alle say again, Drink haille.
That says Wassail drinkis of the cop,
Kissand his felaw he gives it up."

This is very much like the custom we follow at our dinner parties, as given in the following friendly dialogue:—Jones—"Your health, Smith," Smith—"Your health, Jones," Jones—"Drink your health, Smith," But if Jones, after "drinks of the cup," were to "kissand his felaw" Smith, he would be turned out of the room, for we Anglo-Saxons have given up those old customs which our French and German neighbours so delight in still.

New Year's Eve and Twelfth Night were the occasions on which the

Wassail Bowl was carried about from house to house. In our illustration, Mr. Meadows has shown us a party of young women on their rounds for "bounty money." They have taken up their stand before a window so brilliantly illuminated that they naturally conclude—as we do—that there is a jolly party within, eating twelfth cake, and drawing lots for who is to be king and queen of the evening. The boy is singing away at the top of his voice, determined to be heard, even if not heeded; and all the time he keeps his eye fixed in the bowl, either from a greediness inherent in youth, or from a cautious fear of spilling, which is remarkable and praiseworthy in one of such tender years. By right he ought not to be present on the occasion, being of the masculine gender; but on the principle that he is only as yet half a man, perhaps he is permitted to take rank as a young woman. The damsel in front with the ivy leaves round her hat, is the money-taker of the party; and we only hope she may fill the big bag at her side, for she has a face very fair to look upon; and although her eye

betrays a sauciness of disposition, and a disinclination to give change required, yet nobody with a Christian heart in his bosom could object to it, for it is bright enough to read a book by. The pretty full face at the back belongs to a tender-hearted maiden who seems to be afraid of forgetting the words of the carol, and is evidently busy with her memory. She has the sweetest face of the party. Her parting mouth is just opened wide enough to let the words escape in a bashful half-tone, which would cease altogether if anybody came to the window. The third maiden is looking through the glass panes, determined to be first to see and be seen. She has, we should say, a powerful contralto voice, which tells finely in the chorus. If any questions are asked, she will take upon herself to answer for the entire party, for she looks as brave as innocence that knows no cause for blushing. This is the carol this pretty group are supposed to be singing, and a very old one it is, being taken from a very scarce black letter volume in the Ashmolean Museum:



OLD ENGLISH CUSTOMS, NO. VI.—THE WASSAIL-BOWL ON TWELFTH NIGHT.

A CAROL FOR A WASSAIL BOWL.
A jolly Wassail Bowl,
A Wassail of good ale;
Well fare the butler's soul
That setteth this to sale—
Our jolly Wassail.
Good dame, here at your door
Our Wassail we begin;
We are all maidens poor;
We pray now let us in,
With our Wassail.

Our Wassail we do fill
With apples and with spice;
Then grant us your good will
To taste here once or twice
Of our Wassail.
If any maidens be
Here dwelling in this house,
They kindly will agree
To take a full crouse
Of our Wassail.

But here they let us stand
All freezing in the cold;
Good master, give command
To enter and be bold
With our Wassail.

Much joy into this hall
With us is entered in;
Our master first of all
We hope will not begin
Of our Wassail.

And after his good wife
Our spiced bowl will try—
The Lord prolong your life!
Good fortune we espy
For our Wassail.

Some bounty from your hands
Our Wassail to maintain;
We'll buy no house nor lands
With that which we do gain
With our Wassail.

This is our merry night
Of choosing King and Queen;
Then be it your delight
That something may be seen
In our Wassail.

It is a noble part
To bear a liberal mind;
God bless our master's heart!
For here we comfort find
With our Wassail.

And now we must begone
To seek out more good cheer;
Where bounty will be shown
As we have found it here,
With our Wassail.

Much joy betide them all,
Our prayers shall be still;
We hope and ever shall,
For this your great good will
To our Wassail.

THE REV. ROBERT BICKERSTETH, M.A.,
BISHOP OF RIPON.

THE "popular preacher" interest in London is looking up. Out of Lord Palmerston's four bishops, three have been selected who have held large London livings, and who have been "run after" as pulpit or platform orators—the Hon. Dr. Villiers, Bishop of Carlisle, Rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury; Dr. Baring, Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, late Rector of All Souls, Langham Place; and the subject of this sketch, who, without family interest or influential friends, has been elevated from the rectory of St. Giles's to the see of Ripon—from some £600 a year *net* (including his canonry), to £4,500, a palace, and patronage.

Robert Bickersteth was born in 1816, the fourth son of Mr. John Bickersteth, rector of Sapcote, Leicestershire, who died not many years ago. An elder brother of the new Bishop of Ripon is the Venerable Edward Bickersteth, Archdeacon of Buckingham and Vicar of Aylesbury, a well-known High Churchman, and protégé of the Bishop of Oxford. Two of his uncles were celebrities in their way; Edward, who, practising and likely to succeed as a solicitor, left a promising business, and obtained Holy Orders without passing through the usual University course, and who was for so many years known as the author of pamphlets, hymn books, and books of devotion innumerable, and died at his rectory of Walton, near Hertford, three or four years since, universally beloved; and Henry, who was elevated, to his extreme surprise, from the place of a quiet, unambitious, Chancery Barrister, to the Mastership of the Rolls and a Peerage, and whose life by Mr. Hardy increased the respect generally felt for his Lordship. Robert Bickersteth resembled his uncle Edward in altering his plans in life, for he was a student at St. Thomas's Hospital for many years; but turning his eyes in the direction of the church, he entered Queen's College, Cambridge, and graduated B.A. 1841, M.A. 1846, attaining no higher place in the mathematical pripos of 1841, than that of 9th junior optime; no great earnest, to be sure, of his coming rise in the world. Ordained in the year of his first degree to the curacy of Sapcote, he afterwards officiated at the parish church of Clapham; and in 1845, the Incumbency of St. John's Church, in the gift of the Rector of that parish, was given him. On the 21st of May, 1846, he was married at Harold Church, near Bedford, to Elizabeth, third daughter of the late Joseph Garde, Esq., of Cork, and sister of Mr. Richard Garde, rector of Harold; and by this lady he has five children. In 1851, on the death of the excellent Mr. Tyler, Mr. Bickersteth was removed by Lord Truro to the important living of St. Giles's, though, from the diminution of income which he suffered by the operation of the Metropolitan Burials Act, his promotion not only brought no higher emolument with it, but considerably curtailed his income. In 1854, Lord Cranworth appointed him to the canonry of Salisbury, vacated by the Rev. Precentor Hamilton on his elevation to the bench; and it is pretty certain that he would have also obtained the "Golden Lectureship" at Lothbury Church, recently vacant, had he not been apprised of his intended elevation. In his views, Mr. Bickersteth, as every one knows, is extremely "Low Church"—great against the Romanists—great against the Tractarians—great on Irish Church Missions, at Pastoral Aid Society's meetings, lectures to "Christian Young Men," and all other places where Evangelicals are gathered together. As an extempore preacher, he is fluent, energetic, and graceful. Like Dr. Villiers and many others of the same class, he is not learned, nor can he be said to rise to any great height of eloquence; but his good appearance, gentlemanly demeanour, and fine-toned voice, combined with healthy common sense, strong earnestness, and marked religious feeling, have made him one of the most popular preachers in or near London. In other respects, Mr. Bickersteth has a good name, though it is not so universally known, as an indefatigable attendant on all classes in his parish, as the friend of the poor and the consoler of the sick, and as a hearty worker in the cause of education. With such qualifications, Lord Palmerston cannot be blamed for selecting the Rev. Gentleman at the early age of forty, and after only fifteen years' service as deacon and priest, for the see vacated by Bishop Longley.

HIS SEE.

Previously to 1836, the old cathedral of Ripon was styled a "Collegiate Church," and formed part of the diocese of York. In that year, Lord Melbourne's Government erected the North and West Ridings, containing Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Richmond, Settle, and other large towns, into a separate see, with its head-quarters at Ripon.

Whether the Evangelical, Bishop Bickersteth, will be able to work harmoniously with Dr. Hook and his clergy, who have done wonders in Leeds, and have met with scanty praise, for the amelioration and regeneration of the people, is problematical. The late Bishop (Longley)—a moderate High Churchman (some papers incorrectly call him an Evangelical)—managed to honour those excellent men, and yet to restrain with a firm hand such of them as went to extremes, as was the case with the clergy of



THE RIGHT REV. DR. BICKERSTETH, BISHOP OF RIPON.

St. Saviour's. Dr. Hook is old enough to be the new Bishop's father; he is a match for fifty Bickersteths in learning and experience; and assuredly, if the new Prelate attempts to rule his diocese in a narrow, exclusive spirit of Evangelicalism, he will mar his prospects of usefulness, and bring on a High Church re-action.

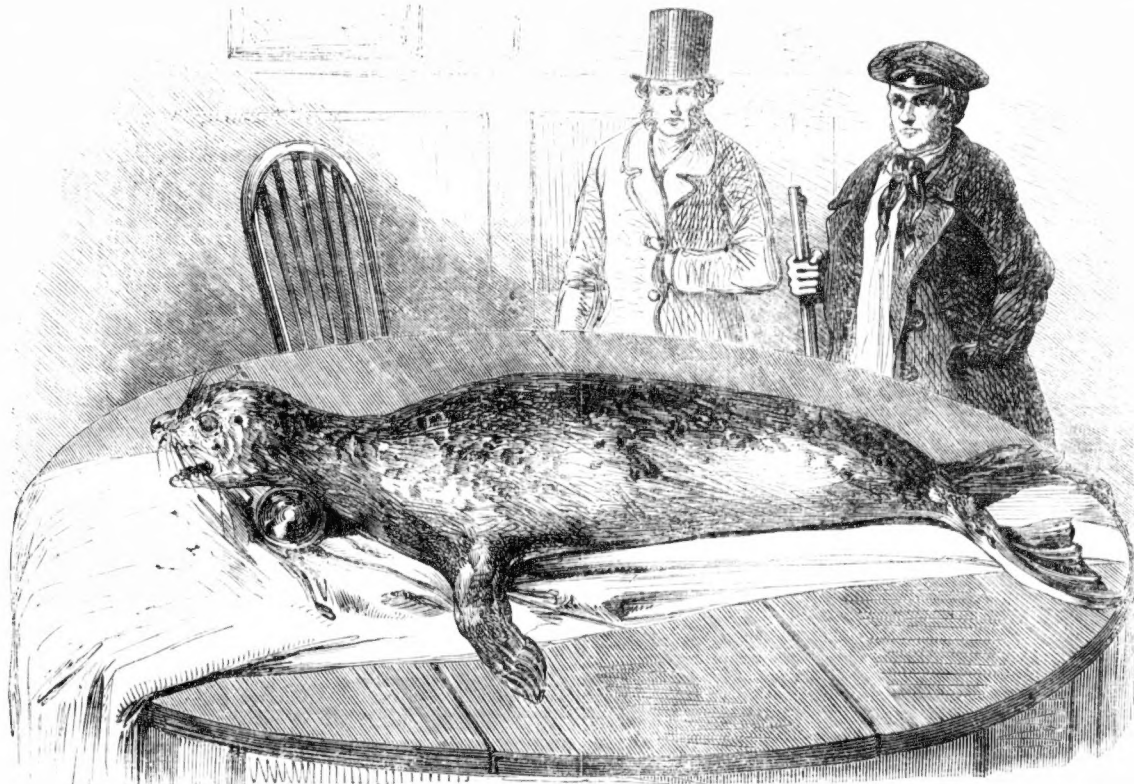
HIS PATRONAGE

is not great or valuable. The Canonries of the Cathedral (poor ones compared to other stalls), and the Archdeaconries of Craven and Richmond (£180 each) are in his gift, together with twenty-nine livings, some few of which are in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, and the rest in Yorkshire. But of these, one only is a good one, namely, Crayke, near York, value £672; and but four out of the twenty-nine are worth more than £300, namely, Crayke aforesaid, Knaresborough (£393); Norwell, Notts, (£336); and Waltham, Lincoln, (£331); while, *per contra*, two (Halloughton, Notts, and Rathmel, York), are perpetual curacies valued respectively at the high figure yearly of £46 and £40! In addition to these benefices, there are twenty-six perpetual curacies, to which the Bishop presents alter-

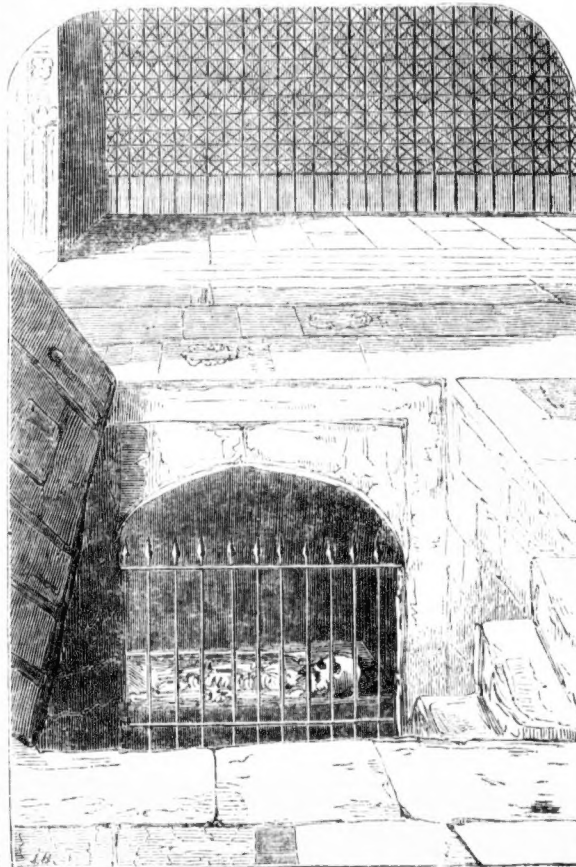
nately with the crown. Of these (*most of which involve the employment of a curate*), three are valued at £130, nine from £150 to £156, and fourteen from £160 to £163.

THE SEAL SHOT IN THE THAMES.

THAT any free animal should consent to be found in the Thames of the present day seems absurd. Above the bridges, indeed, we must believe that there are little fishes; for do we not see them angled for every season? and Richmond dinners have acquainted us, *en route*, that swans do haunt the nits. But of all animals in all places, a seal in the Thames near Wandsworth, does seem the most incongruous and impossible. Yet a seal was actually shot at Wandsworth a few days ago by a waterman, Benjamin



SEAL SHOT IN THE THAMES AT WANDSWORTH.



THE TOMB OF DUKE HUMPHREY IN ST. ALBAN'S ABBEY.

Drakes by name, and a "beautiful specimen" it is described to be. It measures four feet in length, and two feet one inch in breadth. Apart, however, from any intrinsic feature of interest which the animal could possibly display, the fact that it ventured so far as Wandsworth, through such a villainous medium, renders him an object of curiosity, worthy to be commemorated by the graver as well as by the pen.

CORNER FOR THE CURIOUS, NO. XXI. THE TOMB OF DUKE HUMPHREY IN ST. ALBAN'S ABBEY.

As most of our readers know, "To dine with Duke Humphrey" means that the person so doing dispenses with dinner. In former times, he took instead a ramble in the nave of Old St. Paul's, where there was a porch for promenaders, and in which was a "proper" tomb to the memory of Sir John Beauchamp, constable of Dover and warden of the Cinque ports, who was there buried in the year 1358. "This deceased nobleman," says Stow, "by ignorant people hath been erroneously mistaken, and said to be Duke Humphrey, the good Duke of Gloucester, who lyeth honourably buried at St. Alban's, in Hertfordshire, twenty miles from London, in idle and frivolous opinion of whom some men of late times have made a solemn meeting at his tomb on St. Andrew's day, in the morning before Christmas, and concluded on a breakfast or dinner, as assuming themselves to be servants, and to hold a diversity of offices under the good Duke Humphrey." Stow's continuator says—"Likewise, on May Day, tankard-bearers, watermen, and some others of like quality besides, would use to come to the said tomb early in the morning, and according as the others deliver servile presents at the said monument, by strewing herbs and sprinkling fair water upon it, as in duty of service, and according to their degrees and charges in office; but as Master Stow hath discreetly observed, such as be merrily disposed or simply profess themselves to serve Duke Humphrey in St. Paul's (if punishment of losing their dinner daily, that not being sufficient for them), they should be sent to St. Alban's to answer there for their disobedience and long absence from their so highly well-deserving lord and master as in their merrie disposition they please so to call him." "So much for Duke Humphrey in St. Paul's," as honest John would say. He also tells us that the good Duke was son of Henry IV., that he was a famous statesman and scholar and a great encourager of learning, and that (it is said at the instigation of Margaret, wife of Henry VI.) he was murdered at Bury, and his remains removed to St. Alban's, and interred near to the shrine of the saint behind the great altar of the church.

Pent-up London might do worse than take advantage of some fine day, and dine with good Duke Humphrey at St. Alban's. The town is full of interest; close by are the remains of the Roman city of Verulam; St. Michael's Church, an ancient structure (partly built of Roman materials) in which is buried Lord Bacon; the old Bell Tower in the Market Place is still standing, and presents a gray and venerable appearance. From many points of view the rude massive form of the Abbey is most picturesque, its immense length making it particularly striking. It is stated on good authority that on this site was built the first Christian church in England. In the Saxon times the shrine of the English martyr was in great repute. Some portions of this structure remain in the Tower, and at an early part of the Norman period the chief portion of the Abbey seems to have been built of bricks, &c., from the neighbouring Roman city. In succeeding reigns various alterations and additions have been made, so that the church contains a greater variety of architectural examples than any ecclesiastical building we have visited. Here may be seen the herring-bone and rude pillars and caps of the Saxons, the massive piers and circular arches of the Normans, and the elegant, richly, and delicately wrought early English carved wood and stone work of about the date of Henry VI.

Should any of our readers go to dine with Duke Humphrey, they should not neglect to stand at the great west entrance and view the long perspective of the nave. If it happens to be a bright day, he will be delighted with the sunshine playing about, as it does, on screen-work, pillars, arches, &c. The intelligent guide and his daughter will point out many things worthy of notice. Those who do not mind the trouble of mounting to the top of the tower, will be well repaid for their labour. The view over the battlefield of Barnet, &c., is most interesting. At the end of the south transept is a part of the abbey's cloister, with circular roof of Roman tiles and curious Norman details.

At the suppression of the monasteries, the wealth of St. Alban's was enormous, the income being equivalent to £200,000 a year. In addition to the appropriation of this wealth, the damage done in the "time of the troubles," as the Verger at Westminster Abbey terms it, has been great; the rich paintings which covered the walls were defaced and whitewashed, only a small scrap of old stained glass remaining; the figures of the altar-screen, shrines, &c., entirely destroyed. The ancient abbey became the parish church, and the funds being quite inadequate for the purpose of keeping such a vast structure in repair, many parts have sadly perished. Attempts have been made from time to time to save this ancient church; and lately it has been suggested to form it into a cathedral, and a large meeting has been held at St. Alban's to endeavour to raise funds for that purpose, and in a short time upwards of £10,000 has been raised. The Verger of the church will, however, give many particulars which our space prevents us from mentioning, and show the visitor the remains of Duke Humphrey, which are in a small vault behind the great altar. It has been found necessary to place an iron grating in front, in order to prevent some of the curious from pilfering the bones. We must not conclude this without mentioning the praiseworthy care which Dr. Nicholson, the present rector, has taken of the place.

STRANGE "PROCLIVITY."—A man, named Huntington, said to be descended from the "Pilgrim Fathers," is now being tried in America on several charges of forgery to an immense amount. The defence was, that the accused was insane. He had been religiously brought up, and had at one time acted as a Sunday-school teacher; but he had exhibited a great propensity to destroy things, and of a morbid curiosity to know their composition. Setting up in business, he started a vast number of schemes, some of them of the wildest character, but never got long to anything. He then got into pecuniary difficulties, and committed the forgeries with which he was charged. "His furniture," said his counsel, "was of the most costly description, and he had an immense iron safe filled with expensive plate, and it was said even gold spoons. He purchased jewels worthy of an emperor, and gave them away with frightful prodigality. He sported fine horses and equipages. All his forgeries, however, were bundled. He frequently left out one of the names of the firm, sometimes put in an extra name, and sometimes reversed their order. He had signed names himself when he could have got the genuine ones by asking for them. He had raised money on forged securities at sixty per cent., and lent it at eighteen and even seven. He kept no books during these transactions from which the extent of his affairs could be ascertained with any approach to accuracy. He used forgeries in some instances to obtain money on credit, when no security would have been required or asked. He took no measures to prevent his arrest in case the forgeries should be detected. His design was to remain in New York or the vicinity. All his extravagant purchases, with trifling exceptions, were made for cash upon forged paper, when he might have made them upon credit. He committed crime to pay debts from which he had been already released. He omitted to destroy evidence of his forgeries. He procured an honest, inexperienced person—a relative—to prepare notes which he subsequently converted into forgeries. He accumulated no property for himself or family. He made no preparation for defraying the expenses of his defence in the event of exposure. After his arrest, he sent to several persons who suffered by him, soliciting money to aid him in his defence." He was sentenced to four years and ten months' imprisonment.

A SWINDLER IN THE CORN MARKET.—A person, attired in a hunting garb, appeared at Stamford corn market, a few days ago, and purchased large quantities of corn at one shilling above the market value. Next day, dressed as a man of business, he again appeared, and made additional purchases. He also made use of an agriculturist to obtain a gold watch and other articles. Neither the gentleman, nor the watch, nor the money for the corn, (which was sent to Leicester and sold there,) has been seen since, and the result is said to be that a loss of about £1,600 has been sustained among several Rutland farmers.

GAROTTE ROBBERY.—About nine o'clock on the evening of Saturday week, Mr. George Cussons, Manchester, was attacked at the corner of a court in Cannon Street, and robbed of £55, by a man and woman, who unfortunately escaped with their booty. The man, according to the account given by Mr. Cussons, seized him by the neck, and almost choked him.

THE INNOCENT CONVICTED.

Mr. A. Rose, ex Under-Sheriff of London, gives a painful account of the sufferings endured by a certain John Markham, who, when walking in Oxford Street, was mistaken for James Anderson, the man now under examination upon the charge of having defrauded the City banks. Markham and Atwell's brother were tried together for forgery. Markham was convicted, and sentenced to four years of penal servitude, while his companion was acquitted. It was a case of mistaken identity—the lawyers and police had got hold of the wrong man. The poor creature was obliged to sell every little article of furniture he possessed in the world to provide for his unsuccessful defence. He was two months, it seems, in Newgate, picking oskum with the convicts, who in this prison are all in one room to either—three murderers at one time, pirates who had deliberately planned wholesale massacres, to be accompanied by indescribable atrocities; burglars, garotters, thieves from their birth, receivers, and putters-up of robberies, and the perpetrators of unmentionable crimes. The amusement of these persons is to narrate their crimes, and to plan fresh ones. John Markham was innocent, and he constantly asserted his innocence; in consequence, he was persecuted and tormented by his associates with relentless malignity. It is impossible, says Mr. Rose, to narrate the constant outrages perpetrated on "the countryman," as he was called by these felons.

In course of time Markham was removed to Millbank, in separate confinement, where he was locked up in a gloomy, solitary cell at half-past five in the evening, to bed at eight, rise at six in the morning.

From Millbank he was removed to Pentonville, where he was three months in solitary confinement—solitary and separate even in chapel, where each prisoner is enclosed in a wooden box, so that he can see no one but the clergyman; here in the chapel, at the sound of a human voice, the convicts are often affected, faint away, or shriek out. "Why?" Mr. Rose asked Markham. "Oh, they think of home, or something of that," he replied. At this prison the prisoners wear a mask made of cloth, very hot and very unpleasant. At length the really guilty man was taken, and admitted that Markham was totally innocent. He touch of nature which makes all mankind kin is not wanting even in crime; this man sent Markham's wife £5 by a mode most elaborately circuitous to avoid being traced. The governor of the Pentonville Prison finally broke it to Markham that it was proved he was innocent; that he was now a free man, and might go as soon as he liked. The governor then sent a policeman in plain clothes to inform Markham's wife of his liberation, and gave him a sovereign. Mr. Rose adds that the poor fellow has no work—no means of getting a living. "People would believe he was discharged from prison because he was innocent." The suggestion of the "Times," that he should be invited to attend at the court where he received his sentence, and that his innocence should be as emphatically proclaimed by the presiding judge as his supposed guilt had been on a former occasion, to some extent meets the case.

By the exertions of the Ordinary of Newgate another man, Martin by name, who had been convicted and sentenced to four years' penal servitude for highway robbery, with violence, at Bethnal Green, was proved to be innocent. "I heard this man tried," says Mr. Rose, "and doubted his guilt. When undergoing his sentence he came under the care of the Ordinary of Newgate; he believed him to be innocent. We ransacked Bethnal Green for three days, and got undoubted evidence that he was not guilty; and, moreover, discovered who was the guilty man. Martin also was pardoned, and not long since he stood in my office an emaciated wreck of his former self. Before he went to Millbank, he said he didn't know his own strength, and could work without fatigue the longest day."

LAW AND CRIME.

A DECISION has at length been given in the long-pending case of Swinfen v. Swinfen, in which it may be recollected the right of a counsel to negotiate the terms of settlement of a cause, without express authority from his client, was called into question. The matter has been decided according to the view that the counsel is not the authorised agent of his client for the purpose of negotiation.

The newspapers have recently teemed with letters from correspondents, each writing to put the public upon their guard against some new trick upon the part of sly thieves for gaining admission to private houses in the day time, or for obtaining property by fraudulent means from the inmates. One of the cleverest of these, however, has not, so far as we have seen, yet found its way into print. A lad dressed as a butcher's boy meets another really in the service of a butcher in the neighbourhood, and who is carrying home a handsome sirloin of beef. The first lad enters into conversation, as a brother of the craft, with the second. While both are thus engaged in delightful interchange of sentiment, they arrive at the door of the customer for whom the meat is intended. Mr. Chump's youth here relinquishes his burden, shortly after which his new acquaintance bids him farewell. The latter at once returns to the customer's street-door with "Mr. Chump's compliments—very sorry—hurry of business—has sent the wrong piece of beef, and begs you'll be so kind as to let me have it back to change it, m'am." The maid, who has seen the false messenger in company with the one who left the meat, delivers it up unsuspectingly. The subsequent history of the beef baffles all inquiry.

A man, named John Markham, who had been tried and convicted of attempting to utter a forged cheque, has been discovered to be entirely innocent, the case being one of mistaken identity. In consequence, he has received her Majesty's pardon, that being the course usually adopted, and necessitated by our strict adherence to an old legal fiction that the law can do no wrong. The result of this absurdity is the still greater one of necessitating the direct interference of the Crown—that being given, moreover, under the form of forgiveness—when a legal sentence is discovered to have been delivered upon an erroneous judgment. The man was tried at the Old Bailey, and we would only add that this is not the first time our faith has been shaken in the infallibility of Old Bailey justice. Those who wish to see it under its least favourable aspect, should attend the court when what is called "a batch of Mint cases," is being tried. It seems that there is some notion among the poor that it is no use to be defended by counsel against a charge of passing bad money. It is painful to hear the protestations of innocence on the part of some of the culprits as they are removed from the dock, and consider how easily evidence in a case of uttering bad money may be based upon error, or even malice; to say nothing of the thousand chances in favour of the prisoner having received the money and presented it for payment in ignorance of its being counterfeit.

A consumptive youth, one of the paupers of the Islington workhouse, is said to have been sent, with the other male inmates, round the fire on Christmas day, when it was agreed to tell stories for mutual entertainment. Some tales of ghosts and murders having been related, the young man became strangely excited, and at length related a terrible and circumstantial story of a murder committed by himself upon an elderly gentleman, two years ago, on the banks of the Regent's Canal. This murder, he said, had occasioned him so much remorse as to cause an illness which incapacitated him from earning his livelihood, and was fast hurrying him to the grave. On this confession, the narrator was given into custody and taken to Clerkenwell police court, where the charge was investigated. The prisoner here declared the whole story to be an invention, a view of the matter in which it is said Mr. Tyrwhitt, the magistrate, concurred, "after a long and patient investigation." Such is the newspaper report of the affair; but we humbly beg leave to go a little further than even Mr. Tyrwhitt is alleged to have gone in the way of incredulity. In short, we do not believe one word of the entire report—Christmas tales by paupers—dramatic power of a story-teller—arrest—patient investigation, or any one point in connection therewith. The whole reads to us like an ingenious puff of a very dull book, to which we forbear further reference. It is singular, at least, that the account should have appeared only last Monday in the papers, if, as alleged, the story was told on Christmas day. No date is given of the examination, and we have not been able to find the report in the "Times."

The height of street ruffianism appears to have been reached on Friday week last, by a party of ten or twelve thieves, who attacked two soldiers walking together in Ratcliff. The Crimmin medal was snatched from the breast of one of them, who, though severely beaten and kicked, managed to retain his grasp of the robber until assisted by the police, when the captured fellow continued his violence until stunned by a blow from a truncheon. And yet only a few days since one or two of the papers were characterising the popular idea of metropolitan insecurity as a "disgraceful panic!"

At a meeting of the Law Amendment Society, held on Monday evening, a letter was read from Lord Brougham, in which his Lordship expressed his opinion in favour of the appointment of a Minister of Justice, and added—"There have been some cases lately in our criminal courts deserving of serious attention on account of the erroneous views taken by juries, and perhaps not sufficiently checked by the bench." From such an authority as Lord Brougham, upon such an important matter as the administration of our penal laws, an opinion like this is not to be considered lightly.

A County Magistrate, writing to the "Times," points out that the sta-

tistics published as to the reconviction of ticket-of-leave men are by no means to be depended upon as pointing out the full extent of the relapses of these discharged convicts. He says, "Where one of these unfortunate persons has committed, or proposes to commit, a crime, it is his interest to assume another name, and to conceal or destroy his ticket, the preservation of which cannot be otherwise than detrimental to him. Having used this precaution, the chances are very much in favour of its not being discovered that he is a ticket-of-leave holder, unless he has been so incautious as to exercise his craft among his old haunts, where he is already known to the police." This letter exhibits a new phase of the question as to these tickets-of-leave.

A cabman was brought before the magistrate at Clerkenwell, charged with cruelty to a miserable horse. He was fined forty shillings, or two months' imprisonment. On agreeing to have the horse slaughtered (which was at once carried into effect) the imprisonment was mitigated to one month, but the fine not all. So that we are farther than ever from knowing what amount of imprisonment is a judicial equivalent for forty shillings when one magistrate in the same case punishes the nonpayment of that sum by one or two months, according to mitigating circumstances.

The remarkable series of forgeries brought to light by the apprehension of Seward and his associates will probably be instrumental in bringing into use some plan whereby the counterfeiting of bankers' cheques may be rendered a matter of greater difficulty than at present. The peculiar faculty of imitating at will the handwriting of any person is by no means rare. One method which we have seen adopted in large houses is to have a die manufactured with a lever press. This latter is entrusted to the cashier of the establishment, and all cheques issued are countersigned in the office by the impression, after signature by the principal.

Mr. Under-Sheriff Rose, in a letter upon the case of Markham, (pardoned for being innocent), has some remarks upon the internal arrangements of Newgate. He says, "The convicts there are all in one room together, three murderers at one time, pirates who had deliberately planned wholesale massacres to be accompanied by indescribable atrocities; burglars, garotters, thieves from their birth, receivers and putters-up of robberies, and the perpetrators of unmentionable crimes. The amusement of this den of devils is to narrate their crimes, and to plan fresh ones." It further appears that when an innocent man comes among this set of wretches, and persists in his innocence, he is "persecuted and tormented with the most virulent and relentless malignity." This description reads more like an extract from Fielding than a newspaper description of an existing establishment for the repression of crime. On the other hand, at Pentonville the solitary system is said to be so rigorously enforced that the convicts often shriek out or faint away at the sound of a human voice!

The gamekeeper of the Earl of Winchelsea has been committed for trial on a charge of shooting Mr. Allen, constable and parish guardian, of Little Weldon. Allen had gone by night into a wood to shoot a few pheasants, and having done so was returning home, when he was deliberately fired upon and severely wounded by the Earl's gamekeeper. It is surely some testimony as to the difficulty of establishing as a crime, by operation of law, that which morality does not recognise as criminal, when we find a man who, like Allen, holds positions of trust and respectability, positions which cannot be acquired but after years of good conduct and decent reputation, leaving his home by night to commit an offence, for which the mere profit to be obtained must have been inconsiderable. The Game Laws have also just received another protest by the will of the late Mr. Collett, in which a large sum of money is left in trust for the payment of fines incurred by poaching offenders. Provision appears to have been made for the probable setting aside of the bequest on account of its being inimical to the law as at present administered.

CONVICTION FOR MURDER.—Peter McLean, Christina Peters or McLean, and William Mansfield, were arraigned at the High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh, for the murder of Thomas Maxwell, a miner of Durhamtown. The deceased, it was alleged, had been knocked down by the prisoners, and stabbed in the neck and chest. A verdict of Guilty was returned against Peter McLean, upon whom sentence of death was passed. Mansfield was found guilty of assault only, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment; the woman was discharged.

EXTRAORDINARY MURDER.—A murder has been committed at Merthyr under the roof of the Coroner, Mr. Overton. The name of the deceased is Grenalliam Lewis, and circumstances point strongly to her husband, John Lewis, as being the assassin. Lewis and his wife resided at a house in Merthyr, in which Mr. Overton, the Coroner, had his offices. The occupancy of the premises by the Lewises was a permissive one, arising out of the circumstance of the deceased acting as housekeeper to Mr. Morgan, a solicitor, who also had offices on the premises. On the day of the murder, Mr. Morgan left his house at about three in the afternoon, and did not return till about eleven at night. On entering the house, he was called down stairs by Lewis, and found that Mrs. Lewis was murdered. The husband's face was scratched, and his prevaricating answers throw considerable suspicion on him—suspicion which was strengthened by the fact that he attempted suicide in the cell in which he was confined while the inquest on the body of his wife was pending. He had pulled an iron bar or stentil out of the wall, and then, fixing it with the point turned towards him, he had run his head with as much violence as possible against the iron point, intending that it should pierce his brain. The iron was too loosely fixed, however, and only inflicted a wound on the scalp. He had then tried to force the point into his bowels, but it was not sharp enough, and he fainted from the pain; the keeper found him on the floor in a state of insensibility. On the inquest, Mr. Dyke, surgeon, deposed to having made a post-mortem examination of the body of the deceased. Death had undoubtedly been caused by an extensive fracture of the skull, and consequent injury of the brain. In his opinion, the fracture had not been produced by a blow from any instrument, but had been occasioned by the deceased having been thrown with great violence down stairs. He did not think that the injuries could have been the result of accident. A verdict of "Wilful Murder" was returned against Lewis.

THE FRAUDS ON THE CITY OF LONDON UNION.—An official inquiry has been made into the several circumstances connected with the recent frauds on the City of London Union, by the Government inspectors, Messrs. Farnall and Cane, at the chief office, 51, St. Mary Axe. The day was spent in receiving the explanations of Mr. Russell, the clerk, and Mr. Gibbs, the auditor of the union. The proceedings were brought to a close before the rising of the court; but they may be resumed if occasion should arise. Messrs. Farnall and Cane will now report to the Poor-Law Board. Another case has been brought against Paul. The charge was that he had sold a cheque for £455 12s. 2d., drawn by the guardians of the City of London Union, and dated June 17, 1856, in favour of the London Life Association. The cheque was entrusted to the prisoner to be paid over by him to the association, but instead of doing so, he paid it in to his own account in the Bank of London, and the object for which he received the cheque was never carried out. The cheque found its way from the Bank of London to Smith, Payne, and Smith, the bankers of the Union, and was paid by them. It was the custom of Smith, Payne, and Smith to return cheques to their customers who paid, but this cheque, like many others, had been lost, and it would therefore be necessary to prove its payment by other evidence. Witnesses having been called in proof of this charge, the prisoner was remanded again.

POLICE.

A YOUNG RUFFIAN.—Thomas Reid, seventeen years of age, was charged, at Worship Street, with a desperate assault upon his mother, an aged woman. The complainant's statement was to the effect that "the boy" came home on Thursday week, and began to rake out the fire. She begged him to desist, as it was all the fuel she possessed; upon which he struck her two heavy blows on the head with the poker. She dropped senseless to the ground, but afterwards recovering, went to a neighbouring police station for protection. The prisoner, who did not deny the accusation, was committed for trial.

COMMITTAL OF A DOG STEALER.—Thomas Williams, a dog fancier, was brought before the magistrate at the Marlborough Street Police Court, on the following charge:—Mr. John Davies, of Broad Street, Golden Square, deposed that a valuable spaniel dog was stolen from his premises, and in spite of all his efforts to recover the same, he had heard nothing of it until Thursday week, when the prisoner called upon him and said, "You have lost a dog, ain't you, my friend?" Witness replied that some one had stolen his dog. The prisoner then said that he knew where it was; it was in the hands of a dealer, who had purchased it of another man for a pound, and if witness would give him that amount, he thought he could get it for him. Prosecutor consented, and the prisoner made an appointment to meet him on a future night. In the meanwhile, prosecutor communicated with the police, and having previously marked some silver, he, with a constable, went to a public-house to keep the appointment, and found the prisoner waiting. He said that if witness would pay down a trifle by way of instalment, he would fetch the dog. Witness then gave prisoner 6d., when he left the house followed by witness, who gave him into custody for receiving money to restore a stolen dog. The prisoner, who denied the charge, was committed for trial under the sixth section of "Bishop's Act."

ATTEMPTED CHILD MURDER THROUGH DESTITUTION.—A careworn-looking woman, of respectable appearance and good address, named Martha Duke, was last week charged with attempting self-destruction, and also with administering poison to her own son, who is only five years of age. The prisoner was brought from the London Hospital, where she had recovered from the influence of poison, only with great difficulty. In a conversation which took place between Mr. S. J. Birch, resident medical officer of the London Hospital, and the Magistrate, it transpired that the prisoner was the widow of a person who committed suicide a short time ago, since which she had been reduced to great poverty, although attempting to gain a living by her needle. This destitute condition preyed on her spirits until she was tempted to poison herself and her child. The prisoner's landlady deposed that the mother was always kind to her child, was a very honest woman, and paid her rent punctually. Mr. Birch said he believed the prisoner was really penitent, and interceded on her behalf. He should rejoice if the prisoner was liberated, for she had been a great sufferer. Mr. Selfe could hardly conceive the prisoner would have attempted the life of her child if she had not been in a state of great mental anguish, caused by the loss of her father and husband, and her destitute condition. He could not do otherwise, however, than commit her for trial, and the case must come before the notice of a higher tribunal. The prisoner, who sobbed loudly, was then removed from the dock.

AN ARTFUL TRICK.—John Murphy and George Porter were charged with stealing a cash-box, containing above eighty pounds. Mrs. Emily Rix, the landlady of the George public-house, Lower East Smithfield, stated, that on Thursday week the prisoners and another man entered her house. The prisoners stood in front of the bar, and called for a pint of beer. The third man entered the parlour, and called for a glass of ale, and directed the servant to look for a newspaper for him to read, and diverted the girl's attention as much as possible. Directly the beer was supplied to the prisoners, Porter staggered towards the bar, and fell down within it, apparently in a fit, and threw his legs and arms about, and foamed at the mouth, ground his teeth, and stared wildly in a most fearful manner. The other man (Murphy) rushed to assist his companion, who continued wriggling about, and amidst his contortions managed to unlock a drawer under the serving-counter, in which she kept her cash-box, which then contained about £100 in notes and cash. Directly afterwards, while Porter was throwing his legs and arms about, and beating the air with his hands, the cash-box was seen under his body, and Murphy was apparently trying to hold him down. The man who had gone into the parlour, and who was dressed in a large coat with capes to it, then came into the bar, and the cash-box, with its contents, was picked up by Murphy. Porter still kicking and plunging lustily. Murphy then made towards the door, but he was stopped before he had proceeded far with the cash-box in his possession. Porter was carried into the tap-room, and soon recovered from the fit. The prisoners were committed for trial.

THE GREAT GOLD ROBBERY.

AGAR has made some further disclosures in connection with the frauds upon the South-Eastern Railway. It had been suspected that Pierce, and probably Tester and Burgess, were concerned in the abstraction of a sum of money amounting to nearly £800, which was stolen from an iron safe in the basement storey of the station some time previously to the bullion robbery, and after due consideration it was resolved to question Agar on this point, with a view of discovering whether he could throw any light upon the transaction. Upon being interrogated, Agar at once "made a clean breast of it," and declared that to himself and Pierce belonged all the guilt of this robbery, which was effected by means of duplicate keys, obtained by Pierce, exactly as in the case of the gold dust robbery. "Pierce appears to be an accomplished hand at robbery. It appears that he first went into the service of the South-Eastern Railway as a ticket-printer, about eight years ago. The press then, and now, in use on all the principal railways is a patent machine, consequently the ticket cards are of one description—uniform in size, and alike in typographical appearance; so that if the ticket-printer is a rogue, and in league with similar characters on any other railway, no difficulty can arise in supplying any number of spurious tickets of any required class. Some time previously to Mr. Finnigan resigning the office of superintendent of the South-Eastern Railway, he had a clerk of the name of Pierce in his office, and on a particular morning this gentleman received a letter addressed to "Mr. William Pierce," which he opened, believing it to be intended for himself. On perusing it, he discovered it to have been written by a person in the employ of the London and North-Western Railway Company at Euston Station, requesting Pierce, the ticket-printer of the South-Eastern Company, to print a certain number of first-class tickets for particular stations on the London and North-Western Railway, and to have them ready at a certain place on a day named. Mr. Pierce handed the letter to Mr. Finnigan, who at once detected the guilty complicity of the company's printer, and promising the messenger that the request contained in the note should be attended to, he at once drove to Euston Station, and explained what had happened to Captain Huish. After due consideration, it was agreed that the immediate dismissal of the writer of the letter, and Pierce, the ticket-printer, was the only plan to be adopted, and this was done the next day; and thus terminated the official connection of Pierce with the South-Eastern Railway.

A good deal of interest was excited on Monday, in the Lord Mayor's Court, by an action—Saward, plaintiff; Williamson, garnishee, and Pierce, defendants—arising out of the great gold robbery, the plaintiff being an attorney, and brother to Saward, the barrister, in custody upon a charge of forgery. According to Agar's statement, at the time of his apprehension upon a charge of forgery, he invested upwards of £2,000 (some of the money being a part of his share in the proceeds of the gold robbery) in Turkish Bonds, and left them in Pierce's care for the use of his child and her mother, his former mistress, Fanny Kay, according to whose evidence, Pierce, after Agar's conviction, turned her and her child out of doors, retaining possession of the property. The case now before the Court was one of attachment of these Turkish Bonds. The plaintiff sought to recover from out the custody of the police-officer, Williamson, certain property alleged to belong to the defendant.

It appeared that upon the arrest of Pierce, Williamson proceeded to Pierce's residence at Kilburn, and upon searching it, he found three £500 Six per Cent. Turkish Bonds, four £100 ditto, six £50 ditto, and a gold watch and guard, with three seals, the watch bearing the initials "E. R. A." It was this property that the plaintiff sought to make answerable for the payment of his debt, upon the proof of the fact, Williamson admitting, upon cross-examination, that he took the property, and held it without Pierce's consent. Mr. James (for Williamson) took objection, first, that the goods were goods in the hands of a trespasser; and secondly, that they were goods in the custody of the law, and therefore not attachable. The Recorder held the second objection to be valid, and that the goods were not attachable—at all events, until after the trial of the defendant.

ASSAULTING A POLICE CONSTABLE.—Mary Horrigan and John Regan were indicted for unlawfully assaulting and beating William Thorne, a constable of the Metropolitan Police Force, while in the execution of his duty; and Regan was further indicted for unlawfully assaulting and wounding George Anderson. The facts of the case have already appeared in this journal. Regan was sentenced to hard labour for eighteen months, and Horrigan to imprisonment for four months.

BRUJARY BY A POLICEMAN.—John Compton, a constable in the D division of police, has been convicted of entering the dwelling-house of a Mr. Benham of Welbeck Street, and stealing therefrom property to the value of £36. The prisoner was found in the house of the prosecutor, and pretended to have discovered that the premises had been robbed by (of course) somebody else. He was sentenced to be transported for life.

A GAMEKEEPER COMMITTED FOR HOMICIDE.

JOHN MILLEY, gamekeeper to the Earl of Winchelsea, was recently charged, at the Kettering Petty Sessions, with shooting Mr. T. S. Allen, parchment-maker, of Little Weldon, and constable and poor-law guardian of that parish. Mr. Allen, who appeared to be lame and very weak, was accommodated with a chair. O'being sworn, he said:—On the evening of the 6th of December, about ten o'clock, I took my double-barrelled gun and walked to a wood called the O' Cippice. I fired at two or three pheasants. I then heard the leaves rustling on the ground behind me, in the open wood. I looked back, and saw a man in dark clothes. He was gently running after me, in a stooping or skulking manner, and carrying a gun in his right hand. We each stood for a moment; not a word passed between us. I saw him deliberately raise his gun, as though he intended to shoot me. I could perceive there was no time to be lost. I sprang forward, in hopes of baffling his aim, into some bushes. He shot me immediately in the right shoulder. As I was falling I saw him take a circuit into the bushes. At the same time as I was falling one barrel of my gun exploded, and shot me through the arm. Shortly after James Milley (prisoner's son) and Nathaniel Wade, came up, and stood within a few yards of me. Milley began, with repeated oaths, to abuse me. I said to him, "Don't swear at me, for I am dying. I'm shot through." He again repeated other oaths, and said, "It was not me that shot you. Here is my gun, which I have not shot off to-night. It is loaded now." He was carrying a gun under his left arm. I believe Wade said nothing. At all events he did not abuse me. Milley then said, "Wade, we'd better go," or "We must go." I can't say which. They both left me, without rendering me the least assistance, and walked away from me across the wood. With repeated walking and resting I got home without the assistance of anyone. After I got home a surgeon was sent for. I retched blood up to the tenth day after I was shot. It came from my inside by coughing. It was mostly congealed. The wound on the back extends to the loin. When the man fired at me, I think he was about fifteen yards off. It was a perfectly open space.

Mr. Mansell, in addressing the bench for the prisoner, urged that the charge with intent to do grievous bodily harm could not be sustained. The whole case seemed to be this—the men were out watching, they heard shots, and believed themselves to be surrounded with poachers. Milley was heard to say that he never expected to get out of the wood alive, and he fired towards the place whence the shots came, and did not know whether he had hit anybody or not. Mr. Mansell suggested that the shots were only fired in self-defence, and that there was no such proof of a felonious intent as to warrant the prisoner's commitment for trial.

Milley was committed for trial at the assizes, but liberated on bail.

THE BATTERSEA "BOARDING SCHOOL."—The woman named Meeres, against whom a verdict of manslaughter was returned by a coroner's jury, and for whose apprehension a bench warrant has been issued, has not yet been discovered by the police.

AN INFANT ASSASSIN.—Thomas Beall, seven years of age, has been convicted of having stabbed another boy named Charlton. The particulars have already given. On judgment being given, it was stated by the boy's father, when the case was tried, that the matter would never have occurred if his stepmother had taken care of him and his brothers and sisters, five in number, but that she was given to dissipated habits, the result of which was, that neither he (the father) nor the children had anything in the world but what they stood up in. The prisoner's own mother died of the cholera when he was but five months old. The Assistant-Judge admonished the prisoner, and cautioned him not to use a knife against any one in future. He sentenced him to six days' imprisonment; which having already expired, he was discharged, on a sort of understanding that his father was to give him a good flogging.

PERJURY DRIVING—MANSLAUGHTER.—Christopher Stannard, a cab-driver, has been tried for manslaughter, in causing by means of his own drunken incapacity, the death of a young woman who was riding in his vehicle. He was found guilty, and sentenced to a year's imprisonment.

CONVICTION OF A SHARPER.—Robert May, a well known thief, has been found guilty of stealing £44 from Stephen Rose. The victim was a countryman, who had come up to London to see the cattle show, and, falling into the hands of May and another man (not in custody), they persuaded him that they were townsmen of his. While they were all drinking at a public-house, the sharps told Rose some wonderful story about a legacy, of which he was to receive £20 to be distributed among the poor of his neighbourhood, on condition that he gave evidence of being a man of capital and respectability. The poor fellow was soon persuaded to produce £44, and the sharps were not long before they changed purses, and made off with his money. He pursued them, however, and caught May; but the man who had got the money escaped. May was sentenced to one year's hard labour.

THE ALLEGED FORGERIES ON THE LONDON AND WEST-MINSTER BANK.—Edward Montefiore was again brought before the Lord Mayor on Saturday, charged with forging a bill and two letters of credit on the London and Westminster Bank. To the evidence which we have already given (in the "Illustrated Times" of Nov. 3rd) nothing of importance was added. The question between the opposed counsel seemed to be, whether the case fell at all within the jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor. The documents, it will be remembered, were uttered at the Cape. The Lord Mayor took time to consider what steps should be pursued in the matter.

CONVICTION OF A GANG OF SWINDLERS.—On Saturday, at the Surrey Sessions, Carolus Bond, Sarah Jane Bond, George Alfred Fennell, and Emma Fennell, were indicted for stealing property, consisting of jewellery, lamps, lusters, mantles, satin, clothes, wine, &c., valued at nearly £1,000, from various tradespeople in different parts of the metropolis. There were fifteen indictments against the prisoners. The first indictment was for stealing a velvet mantle, value £44, six cloth mantles and three coats, value £6 4s, the property of Green Brothers, St. John's Wood. Miss Musgrove, assistant to the prosecutors, said that Mrs. Bond had come to the shop dressed in a most fashionable style, and had ordered the above goods to be brought to her house in Wellington Place, St. John's Wood, in order that the cloth cloaks might be fitted upon her children. Witness went with the goods, and was shown into a well-furnished room by the prisoner, Mrs. Fennell, who acted as servant. Witness saw Mrs. Bond, who regretted that her children were not at home, and requested her to call at nine o'clock the next morning when her children would be in. Witness was deceived by the respectable appearance of Mrs. Bond and the house, and left the goods. The next morning when she called the house was empty. Information was given to the police, and the prisoners were traced, through the carman, to Alfred Place, Old Kent Road, to which place they removed at night. They were all taken into custody, and the whole of the stolen property was recovered. The defence was, that the goods were purchased in the usual way, and this was only an ordinary case of credit. The jury found all the prisoners guilty, and pleaded "Not guilty" in all other cases, and pleaded "Guilty." Mr. Robinson, on behalf of the prosecutors, stated that Fennell had borne a good character previous to this transaction, and his wife had no doubt acted under his directions. For the Bonds he could say nothing favourable. The Chairman, in consideration of what had been stated, said he should make a distinction between the prisoners. He then sentenced Bond and his wife to eighteen months hard labour each, Fennell twelve months, and his wife six months in Wandsworth House of Correction.

THE GREAT FORGERY CASE.—Atwell's confederate, Hardwicke, has given evidence confirmatory of that published in our last impression, as to the manner in which their plans were carried out. His statement in turn was corroborated by one of the young men employed to present the forged cheques. Nothing new of any importance, however, transpired. The case was again adjourned.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

The steady increase in the trade and commerce of the country has been followed by an improved demand for money, and a consequent upward movement in the rates of discount in Lombard Street, where it is difficult to obtain advances even upon the best paper under 5 per cent. The Directors of the Bank of England have given notice that they are not prepared to make advances under 6 per cent. rate upon bills of exchange being unaltered. The determination appears to have been taken from the last return of the Bank of France, which shows great activity in the inquiry for discount of the National Eschequer. Now, it is more than probable that the whole capital of the bank just referred to will be put at the disposal of this country. Then, again, we have two important lines of railway projected in India—the Oude and the Punjab—which will require from two to three millions sterling. These leading features have naturally excited great caution on the part of the Bank Directors; and they suggest that money must be in active request for a considerable period.

Several forgeries upon public companies have been brought to light, but we learn that they are not of an extensive nature. The Committee of the Stock Exchange have passed the following resolution, in order to check operations in forged securities:—The Committee particularly caution members of the Stock Exchange against transacting speculative business for clerks in public or private establishments, without the knowledge of their employers. Members neglecting this caution are liable to be dealt with in such manner as the Committee may think proper.

Most money securities have been heavy this week, and a fall of about one half per cent. has taken place in the quotations. For money, very little has been passing in Consols. The 3 per cent. have marked 93 1/4; the New 3 per cent. 94 1/4; and the Reduced, 94 1/2 down to 93 1/4. Bank Stock has been 216 1/4. India Bonds, 3s. prem.; Exchequer Bills, par to 3s. prem.; Exchequer Bonds, 98 1/2 to 99.

In foreign bonds, only a limited business has been transacted; prices have been rather comparatively firm. Brazilian 5 per cent. have realised 100; Buenos Ayres, 8s. Equatorial, Provisional Land Warrants, 4; Greek, 5 1/2; Mexican 3 per cent. 21 1/2; Sardinian 5 per cent. 89 1/2; Spanish 3 per cent. 40 1/2; Spanish Deferred, 23 1/2; ditto, Committee's Certificates of Coupons, 51 per cent.; Turkish 6 per cent. 95 1/2; Turkish 4 per cent. 103 1/2; Belgian 4 per cent. 88 1/2, and Dutch 1 per cent. 88.

Nearly all railway shares have been influenced by the fall in Consols, and the market for these securities has continued flat. In Abercrombie, Nottingham, and Boston have been 4 1/4; Caledonian, 61 1/2; London and Holyhead, 37 1/2; Dundee, Perth, and Aberdeen, 10 1/2; East Anglian, 19 1/2; Eastern, 94 1/2; Great Western, 64 1/2; Lancashire, and Glasgow, 53 1/2; Great Northern, 91 1/2; do. a stock, 7 1/2; Great Southern and Western, Ireland, 112; Great Western, 67 1/2; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 96 1/2; London and Blackwall, 63 1/2; London and Brighton, 10 1/2; London and North Western, 10 1/2; London and North Western, 10 1/2; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 33 1/2; Midland, 82 1/2; Norfolk, 51 1/2; North British, 39 1/2; North Eastern—Berwick, 84 1/2; do. York, 60; North Staffordshire, 12 1/2; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 28; Shropshire, 12 1/2; South Eastern, 73 1/2; Stockton and Darlington, 39 1/2; Union of London, 28 1/2; Great Eastern, 14; Oriental, 14; Grand Trunk of Canada, 14; Great Western of Canada, 24 1/2.

Joint stock bank shares have been firm in price. English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered have realised 18; London and County, 33 1/2; New South Wales, 42 1/2; Ottoman, 13; Union of Australia, 64 1/2; Union of London, 28 1/2; Unity Mutual, 40; and Western Bank of London, 43 1/2.

In miscellaneous securities very little has been passing. Canada Government 6 per cent. have been 110; Crystal Palace Preference, 54; Electric Telegraph, 91 1/2; English and Australian Copper Smelt, 10 1/2; General Securities and Shipping Company, 41; Indian District, 6 1/2; North of Europe Steam, 14; Oriental, 14; Peel River Land and Mineral, 24 1/2; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 66 1/2; do. new, 14 1/2; Southampton Docks, 49.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Only limited supplies of English wheat have been received up to our market this week, coastwise and by land carriage. Nearly all kinds have moved off rather slowly, but we have been able to notice a general improvement in the market for fine foreign wheats, at full quotations, but inferior parcels have ruled heavy. Floating cargoes of grain have sold on former terms. Malt and barley have been in active request, at a further improvement in value of 1s. per quarter; grinding and distilling sorts have been in great demand, and the market has been a fair inquiry for fine foreign wheats, at full quotations, but inferior parcels have ruled heavy. Floating cargoes of grain have sold on former terms. Malt and barley have been in active request, at a further improvement in value of 1s. per quarter; grinding and distilling sorts have been in great demand, and the market has been a fair inquiry for fine foreign wheats, at full quotations, but inferior parcels have ruled heavy. 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